September/October 2003 ISSUE

Central Alternative

A PUBLICATION FOR CENTRAL PA'S LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY.

Business Profile
Pink Lizard Nightclub

Pink Lizard patron haven
PAGE 7

Protesters Spawn Local Day of Unity

Rev. Fred Phelps and followers of the Westboro Baptist Church (WBC), a Kansas anti-gay congregation, arrives in Harrisburg September 28 to protest youth group Common Roads' (CR) showing of "Jim in Bold". The movie portrays Jim Wheeler, a gay teen from a conservative Pennsylvania town, who commits suicide due to constant harassment.

Westboro Baptist Church is the same religious group that appeared at Matthew Shepherd's trial. The congregation's trademark signs include "God Hates Fags", "Thank God for AIDS" and "Thank God for 9/11".

The church calls the film "fag propaganda" and refers to Wheeler's mother, Susan, as the "Mother from Hell". Press time reports indicated church members will carry a sign saying "God hates the Dr. Glen Wheeler family even as He torments son Jim Wheeler in Hell!"

The church news release on the local event calls Jim Wheeler "a pitiful little sodomite who committed suicide in 1997 after he graduated from high school. Wheeler's been in Hell six years now, with eternity left to go. He'll meet his parents in Hell and curse them bitterly forever for lying to him. Just as Matt Shepard will curse the evil Judy!"

Meanwhile, the Associated Press reported that North Philadelphia's Rev. C. Stephen White, 40, a similarly self-styled Christian church leader who is keen on attending events like the movie with a bullhorn, was charged with allegedly soliciting a 14-year-old boy in a pay-to-play sex encounter on June 26.

Shepard's mother, Judy, calls the film "important and not-to-be-missed film." Last July, following a negative media blitz on homosexuality by Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA), the Wheeler family traveled to Washington, asking that Santorum watch the movie with them. He refused.

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Loving the Gay Wallet

by Ted S. Martin

Call it love at second sight (we've always been around), a respect for diversity (we can only hope), or just plain good old-fashioned capitalism. Whatever the reason, the business community has discovered the nation's LGBT community has lots of money at their disposal.

The average gay and lesbian household income is about $70,000.

With those kinds of figures, business is looking to lip lock you and your wallet in a passionate embrace. The only catch is that on this date they'll supply the love in return for you buying the proverbial popcorn and soda.

Numbers always make business sit-up and take notice. Frankly, there are pretty good numbers about gay buying power. Estimates claim we represent at least 18.5 million potential customers with a combined buying power that approaches $500 billion. By 2007, that number is projected to reach $608 billion.

Taboos surrounding advertising in LGBT publications have gone the way of the corded phone. Those who tolerate us the least are fast becoming far less relevant in business's rush for the fabulous gay dollar. In the end, we may learn that money talks and bigotry walks.

Take a quick look at a gay magazine. *The Advocate's* August 19 issue is positively chock full of clever and seductive advertisements aimed expressly at our community. For example, take Miller Lite's tag line…"We're Here. We're Beer." Or Volvo's array of wonderfully photographed same sex couples displayed around their newest product (a station wagon, no less) underlined by the inviting slogan "Whether you're starting a family or creating one as you go."

Prime Access advertising executive Howard Buford says, "There has been tremendous growth and interest in reaching lesbians and gay men on the part of advertisers". His agency has created gay-targeted

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FAB Stages Comedienne Suzanne Westenhoefer

The 8th Annual Fall Achievement Benefit (FAB) is Saturday November 22 at the Strand-Capitol Performing Arts Center, 50 North George Street York The Strand recently completed $17.3 million dollar renovation, restoring the facility both inside and out.

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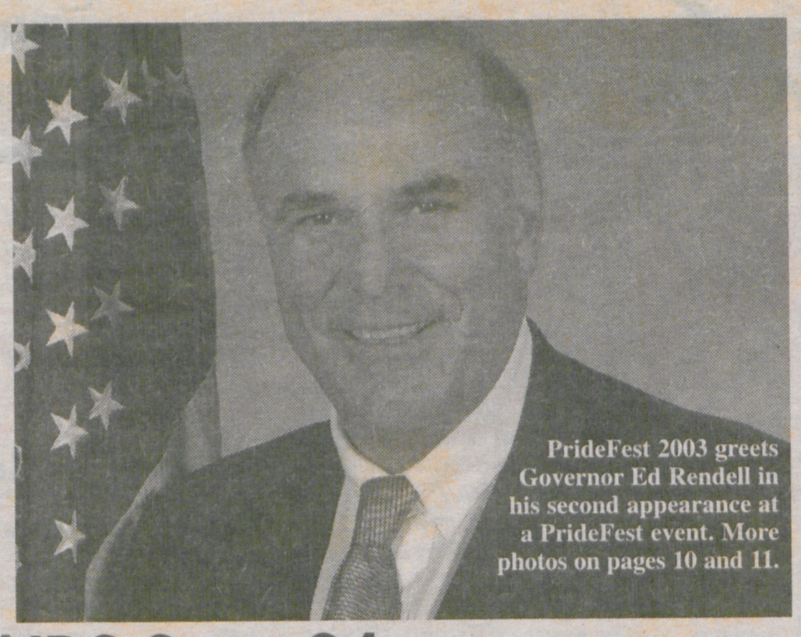

PrideFest 2003 greets Governor Ed Rendell in his second appearance at a PrideFest event. More photos on pages 10 and 11.

Dine Out for AIDS Sept. 24

"Helping to fight AIDS is as easy as eating out," says AIDS Community Alliance CEO Phil Goropoulos. September 24 dozens of restaurants throughout south central Pennsylvania will participate in DINE-OUT 2003.

AIDS Community Alliance, "Caring Together," and Greater Harrisburg AIDS Fund benefit from proceeds raised by the event. Call 1-800-867-1550 for a complete listing of participating establishments in your area.

"The annual event raises the region's awareness of HIV/AIDS while raising money for services to care for those living with HIV," Goropoulos says. Funds from the event are also devoted to preventing the virus's spread in local communities.

Restaurants in Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster and York Counties participate in the event. All proceeds from Dine-Out 2003 benefit AIDS Community Alliance, "Caring Together," and the Greater Harrisburg AIDS Fund. Call 1-800-867-1550 for a complete listing of participating establishments in your area.

"Supporting the event is as easy as eating the food you love," Goropoulos notes. First, gather family and friends to identify a participating restaurant in your area by calling 1-800-867-1550. Make reservations for anytime between 5:00 pm to closing on September 24. Reservations are not always required, but many restaurants will be filled to capacity with individuals wanting to do their part to help stop AIDS. The last step: Enjoy your dinner and don't forget to have dessert. Each participating restaurant donates 25 percent of food items sold from 5 pm until closing time that day to help fight the AIDS battle in south central Pennsylvania.

"Despite perceptions that the AIDS epidemic has ended, new HIV infections across the country and throughout south central Pennsylvania are occurring at an alarming rate," Goropoulos says.

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York County Decision: No Name Change Worries

Citing that "judges, have no monopoly on wisdom", the PA Superior Court recently decided that it is now perfectly acceptable to change your name to that of your life companion in the State of Pennsylvania. Their opinion overturned a York County Judge and acknowledges that name changes have nothing to do with marriage or domestic partnerships.

York County Judge John S. Kennedy denied a name change to a woman who wished to change her name to that of her life companion, who happened to be another woman.

The basis for the Judge's opinion was that changing your name to that of a life companion would give recognition to a domestic status not recognized by the State of Pennsylvania.

Judge Kennedy used the case of Devlin v. The City of Philadelphia as precedent for his decision. In that case the Court stated that Philadelphia was attempting to create a new marital status not recognized by this State. The ordinances that where found unlawful, had been passed by the City Counsel and signed by then Mayor Edward Rendell. They provided for the status of life partnership between members of the same sex and amended the definition of marital status to include life partners. The change would have protected life partners from discrimination in employment and public accommodations and would exclude life partners from realty transfer taxes. The opinion did not say a word about name changes.

Judge Kennedy's decision was appealed to the Superior Court by Audrey E. Woloshin, Esquire, an attorney from York. The Superior Court opinion overturning Judge Kennedy is nineteen pages long and admonished the Judge for abusing his discretion by using his individual perception that the name change offends the law and public policy, as the statutory requirements for a name change were obviously met. Those requirements include a petition and a hearing, a lien record search of all the counties of residence in the five years preceding the time of the name change, fingerprinting and a search, and proofs of publication.

At the hearing the petitioner must state a lawful reason for the name change, which is one that is not to defraud creditors or some other illegal purpose. Someone with a lawful reason to object to the name change may do so at the hearing. At the hearing before Judge Kennedy, the petiononer stated; "I am taking the surname of my life-

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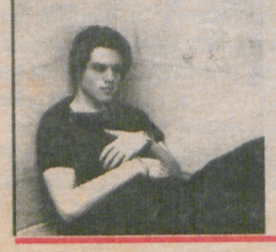

Profile
Young Artist Thrives
PAGE 8

Theatre Harrisburg's Pete Regan Rocks
PAGE 4

CARMEN

AS YOU'VE NEVER
SEEN HER BEFORE

Harrisburg Opera
PRESENTS
Peter Brook's
sizzling production

"LA TRAGEDIE de CARMEN"

Music By Georges Bizet

Saturday, September 27th

Thursday, October 2nd,

Saturday, October 4,

2003-all performances 7:30 P.M.

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Dessert reception after OPENING NIGHT

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Where to Find Alternative Central

Harrisburg & Surrounding Area
Midtown Cinema
Women's Center for Creative Expression
Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg/Resource Center
MCC of the Spirit
Bare Wall Gallery
Sparky & Clarks Coffee Shop
Roxy's Cafe
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Stallions
Neptune's Lounge
The Brownstone
Borders Books & Music (East and West Shores)
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What if...Cafe
The Tenth Muse

Lancaster Area
Club 168, Manheim)
Tally Ho
Sundown
MCC Vision of Hope (Mountville)
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York Area
Velvet Rope
Altland's Ranch

Reading
The Scarab Bar

State College
Chumley's Bar

Stroudsburg
Rainbow Mountain Resort

Williamsport
Peachies Bar

Single copies of Alternative Central are available at the above authorized distribution points to any individual within a 75-mile radious Lancaster, York, Harrisburg Region. Multiple copies are available from Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg (234-0328)

York County Decision continued

long companion." Although Judge Kennedy's opinion does not state such, the transcripts of testimony state that he did not care that the party in this case was of the same gender as her life long companion and that he had denied a name change in the past to a female who was the fiancé of a male.

In the Superior Court opinion reversing Judge Kennedy, the court stated "We as judges, have no monopoly on wisdom, no heightened discernment into the public mind and no right to impose personal views or values on the citizenry of this Commenwealth." The legislature on the other hand can and does impose their personal views on the citizenry of our Commonwealth.

We can look at Judge Kennedy's opinion from the glass is half full approach. Now we have case law found at 2003 Pa. Super 197 that acknowledges that any gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender person may change their name without worrying about judicial bigotry or a bigoted person from the public objecting. If you have or think you may have a problem changing your name in any Pennsylvania county, take the above citation to your attorney. Remember though, the judges in the State of Pennsylvania and our legislature are there because we vote for them, so find out where they stand and register to vote today! See page___ for where to register.

Derek J. Cordier, Esquire
derekjcordier.com
319 South Front Street
Harrisburg, PA 17104
(717) 919-4002

Alternative Central

The mission of Alternative Central (AC) is to promote greater understanding and acceptance of central Pennsylvania's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community in their fight for basic rights. AC will provide a positive voice for the thousands of tax-paying, hard-working LGBT citizens who routinely make valuable contributions to the state's continued economic development and who regularly participate in many charitable endeavors within the greater community.

AC is published by the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, Inc, a non-profit organization, and is the number one source on information and community events for the central Pennsylvania gay and lesbian community. AC is published bimonthly and distributed throughout the central PA LGBT community and to organizations and newcomers to the area.

Alternative Central (AC) reserves the right to accept, reject or edit any submission. Any names, business, advertiser or source upon appearing in this publication is not to be construed as homosexual. Although AC is supported by many advertisers, we can not accept responsibility for claims made by advertisers.

Non-profit Advertising Rates
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GLSH Board Calls for Nominees and Elections

The Board of Directors of the Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, known as "GLSH" and pronounced "Glish", is currently accepting nominations for board positions and committee chairs. All positions are open for nomination.

"The commitment and leadership of our Board of Directors is what will continue to shape and strengthen GLSH and to create positive change in our community," notes GLSH chair Charlie Smith. He adds that "one way to insure the LBGT communty's success is to be a part of the process".

Smith asks readers and community leaders to nominate candidates who will represent all aspects of the region's LGBT community. A nominating committee will consider all nominations submitted, and take into consideration a candidate's experience, commitment, and personal character. Candidates should be ready to: think conceptually, outside of the box, act respectfully and fairly toward others, be conscientious and responsible with accepted and assigned duties, and exercise personal integrity.

"Most of all", Smith says, "Candidates must be able to take action and get tasks accomplished with quality and on time".

Open board positions include: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and three Members–at –Large slots. Open committee chairs are: Scholarship Fund, PR & Marketing; Outreach and Education; Fundraising; and Operations. Board and committee members are required to be GLSH members.

For GLSH's new LGBT bimonthly newspaper, Alternative Central, we're looking for experienced and dependable freelance writers throughout Lancaster, York, Harrisburg and other cities.

The Gay & Lesbian Film Festival Committee has openings for dependable volunteers.

For the Pride Festival Committee (Pride is a project of GLSH) these committee positions are open: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Member-at-large. The following subcommittee slots are open: Vendors, Operations, Entertainment, PR & Marketing which also includes Advertising & Sponsorships, Fundraising, and Volunteers.

All nominees are required to attend the Annual Membership Meeting held each December. GLSH Bylaws insure that the governing board considers the member's interests in the nominating process. If a candidate is submitted for consideration, the board either will support that choice or bring the vote to the meeting. In such a case, the out come will be truly in the hands of the members attending, not pre-ordained in any way.

Smith notes that "a time commitment for participation in the committee's activities and a strong commitment to serve in the public interest are essential". Self-nominations are accepted and encouraged.

Please send name, contact details and any other information in support of nomination, such as qualifications, previously held appointments, relevant affiliations, and connections with key organizations.

Contact the Switchboard for more information at 717.234.0328 or email: info@AskGLSH.org.

Letter to the Editor

August 7, 2003

Dear Editors:

I congratulate you on your interesting and informative first issue of Alternative Central.

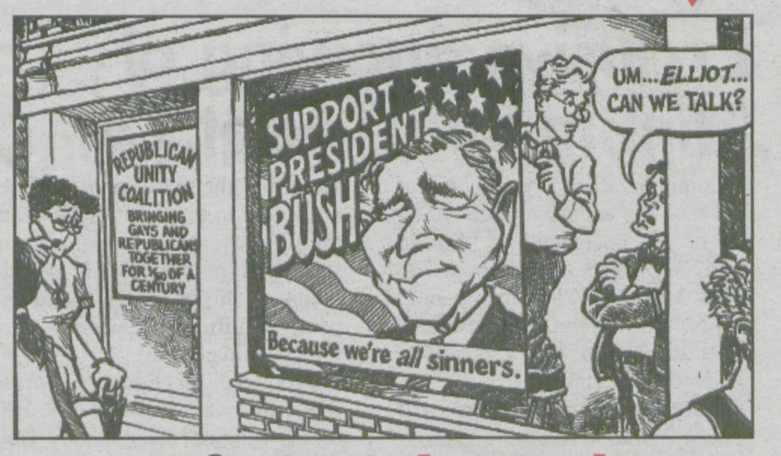
However, on p. 8 "Gay History 101," I would like to point out what I believe to be an important omission from your historic chronological list of crucial events: PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays). It began as early as 1972 when a mother marched with her gay son in New York City's gay pride parade.

PFLAG Inc. was founded in 1981 by 25 parents. It is now the most organized grassroots presence for support of LGBT persons in the U.S. and at least seven other countries.

The Harrisburg Chapter, now the Central Pennsylvania Chapter, was formed in 1978 and has been a PFLAG affiliate since 1983. It has been meeting continuously ever since. The Central Pennsylvania Chapter meets the third Monday of each month from 7-9 p.m. at Diakon Lutheran Center, 960 Century Drive, Mechanicsburg. Our chapter is one of about 18 chapters in Pennsylvania. We work for respect for LGBT persons through support, education and advocacy.

Sincerely,
Esther W. Carter
Advisory Board Member

Editors Note: There is also a York PFLAG Chapter. Watch for a feature story on central Pennsylvania PFLAG organizations in an upcoming issue.


REPUBLICAN UNITY COALITION
BRINGING GAYS AND REPUBLICANS TOGETHER FOR 1/100 OF A CENTURY
SUPPORT PRESIDENT BUSH
Because we're all sinners.
UM...ELLIOT... CAN WE TALK?

Letter from the Editors

WOW – we finally have a LGBT newspaper in Central Pennsylvania. The first edition of Alternative Central (AC) was quite a hit. We have Frank Pizzoli to thank for all of his efforts in getting AC up and running. His expertise was and is invaluable to Alternative Central. We know that Frank spent many hours with Benchmark Media, Inc. making AC a professional and tasteful news journal.

Also, a special thanks to PRIDE and their supporters for allowing us to print the Pride Guide in our first edition. Our community definitely has the ability to work together – and look what can happen when we do.

Alternative Central now has its first two reporters, volunteers Mark Chapaloney and Lisa Granite. They will contribute regularly so look for their great work. Ron Melusky has volunteered to help with our graphics and data base work. Dan Miller is at it again, with another thought provoking article. BAGAL President Ted Martin has volunteered to be a contributing writer, and in this issue reveals the power our community has in its pocketbook.

As promised, Frank Pizzoli's writes on the history of the rainbow flag – he even interviewed the designer for this piece. Also, check out the new section called (Sound Off Central) and then send in your own thoughts. AC is always looking for editorial, so send in your articles, cartoons to ***AC@askglsh.org***. We reserve the right to edit and/or reject all submissions.

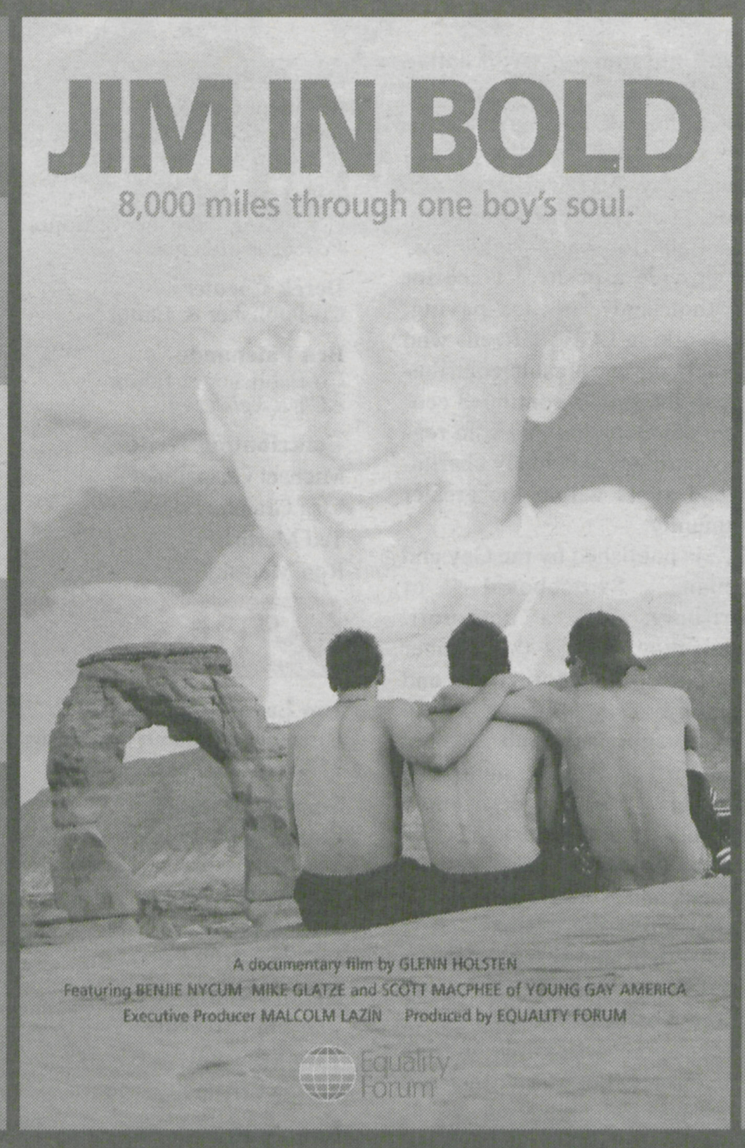
Now it's our readers' turn. Alternative Central needs your support. Please take a moment and join GLSH and for $20.00 buy a year's subscription to Alternative Central. AC will be delivered to your door in a brown manila envelope six times a year. Our subscription list is the power of our paper, so please help support AC and in turn our community.

The mailing costs $1.00 per issue for a total of $6.00, so we get $14.00 to use for distribution costs and some paid editorial. The rest will go right back to the community. Charlie Smith, the President of GLSH, has devoted tireless hours to support GLSH in the past and we all need to show him our community can support itself – so join up today!

Peace,
Derek Cordier
Co-editor/Publisher
Benjamin Patenaude
Co-editior/Publisher

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Exclusive Harrisburg Showing to benefit Common Roads youth group


JIM IN BOLD
8,000 miles through one boy's soul.
A documentary film by GLENN HOLSTEN
Featuring BENJIE NYCUM MIKE GLATZE and SCOTT MACPHEE of YOUNG GAY AMERICA
Executive Producer MALCOLM LAZIN Produced by EQUALITY FORUM
Equality Forum

September 28, 2003

2:00 p.m. at The State Museum of Pennsylvania

For more information contact Common Roads at 717.920.9534
Visit our website at: www.commonroads.org

Alternative Central Profile: Theater Harrisburg's Pete Regan

Gay community part of patron base

By Michael Chapaloney

Welcomed by what he described as a "fabulous, eclectic mix of people," Pete Regan is ready to move forward with enthusiasm into his new term as Theatre Harrisburg's executive director.

Regan is most recently from Morgantown, WV, where he founded the Elkins Shakespeare Festival bringing actors from across the country to perform the great works. Academically Regan hails from Davis and Elkins College, a liberal arts college in Elkins, WV.

He moved her with his wife and began as executive director in March. He feels strongly that growth is "ready to happened" in the Harrisburg's arts community. He also mentioned the Whitaker Center as a facility was a major draw to applying for the position.

A professional actor himself, he is a member of the Actors' Equity Association, which is the only professional actors labor union. The organization has negotiated minimum wages and working conditions, administered contracts, and enforced the provisions of various agreements with theatrical employers across the country.

AC: What are your goals for Theatre Harrisburg?

PR: I would like to open it up to a wide variety of communities. I've been putting together dinner and lodging packages. I want people to say, "I'm going to have an experience…I'm going to have a night out in Harrisburg." We need to expand the educational, reopen the theatre school and open it to kids and adults. I would like to see an "arts row" in Harrisburg with a school facility and shared studio space for those [arts] groups without a home creating an arts incubator.

AC: What are your goals for the gay community in conjunction with Theatre Harrisburg?

PR: The gay community is an important part of our patron base and our creative base. I'm looking forward to reaching out further.

AC: What will be of interest to the regional gay community in upcoming productions?

PR: More partnering, more special packages. Possible one night performance; a gay and lesbian evening of plays similar to the recent 2nd Annual Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

AC: What was the first play you were in or involved with?

PR: I started out as class clown desperate to get attention as the youngest of four. But, "As You Like It" by Shakespeare was the first production. I played Touchstone, the clown, the royal fool.

AC: Have you found the stereotype that "there are a lot of gays in the theater" to be true?

PR: It is inclusive by design. Acting is designed to create empathy for different walks of life. It is such an eclectic mix of people all working together forming an amazing connection and a wonderful family.

AC: What inspired you into this field?

PR: Certainly not the money. I want at the end of the day to be expressive. It's great life expressing how you see to the world.

AC: How do you decide what is produced?

PR: There is a reading committee that whittles down the options. We consider what we want to say. We want to challenge people, to shake them by the collar.

AC: What show is looming out there that you would love to get involved with?

PR: Hamlet, either as a director or with a role. I would love to put it in that theater [Whitaker Center].

AC: How will you measure your success as executive director?

PR: Create economic success, increase revenue. I have a mission in education. Kids learn better when exposed to the empathy of the theater and they make better human beings. I hope people will call and write and let me know what this city is missing.

Regan added, "There is no reason folks need to leave Harrisburg, it is just as exciting. We can be the arts capital of Pennsylvania too. Harrisburg is a great place."

For more information about Theatre Harrisburg including upcoming show times, visit www.theatreharrisburg.com.

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Exclusive Showing of "Jim in Bold" Sept.28

Common Roads youth group will host the exclusive area showing of the documentary, "Jim in Bold" September 28, 2 p.m. at The State Museum of Pennsylvania, 300 N. Third Street, Harrisburg. A panel discussion and a reception follow the screening.

Proceeds from the event will benefit Common Roads.

The film examines the complicated issues facing gay and lesbian teens. Titled after a poem of the same name by Jim Wheeler of Lebanon, Pa, "Jim in Bold" explores the impact on LGBT youth of homophobia in our culture and public schools. Scenes, depict how a high school system tolerated the kind of bigotry and harassment Jimmy endured daily as a student in Lebanon's Cedar Crest High School.

The movie braids the story of Jim Wheeler as told by family, teachers and friends. His remarkable poetry is explored. Especially interesting is the film footage of GLBT youth taken on the film's Young Gay America's National Road Trip.

The documentary film draws on Wheeler's story as a framework to fuse two very different experiences of youths in America. By reconstructing the emotional journey which led to his unfortunate death, the film reveals the many warning signs that pointed to his suicide, including his writings, paintings, pleas with friends to assist him and threats to his family.

Produced by Equality Forum, the film was directed by PBS award-winning documentary filmmaker Glenn Holsten in collaboration with Young Gay America, PBS and MTV. "The movie tells the stories of gay youth in this country, from the tragic impact of hatred to the triumphant resilience of youth," said Equity Forum's Executive Director Malcolm Lazin.

Common Roads, 1300A Third Street, Harrisburg, supports and enhances the physical and emotional well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth in Central Pennsylvania. The group meets weekly on Friday evenings at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets for the event are $10 and can be purchased through Common Roads or at the door. The student rate for tickets is $5. For more information or to purchase tickets call 717-920-9543 or visit the Common Roads website at www.commonroads.org

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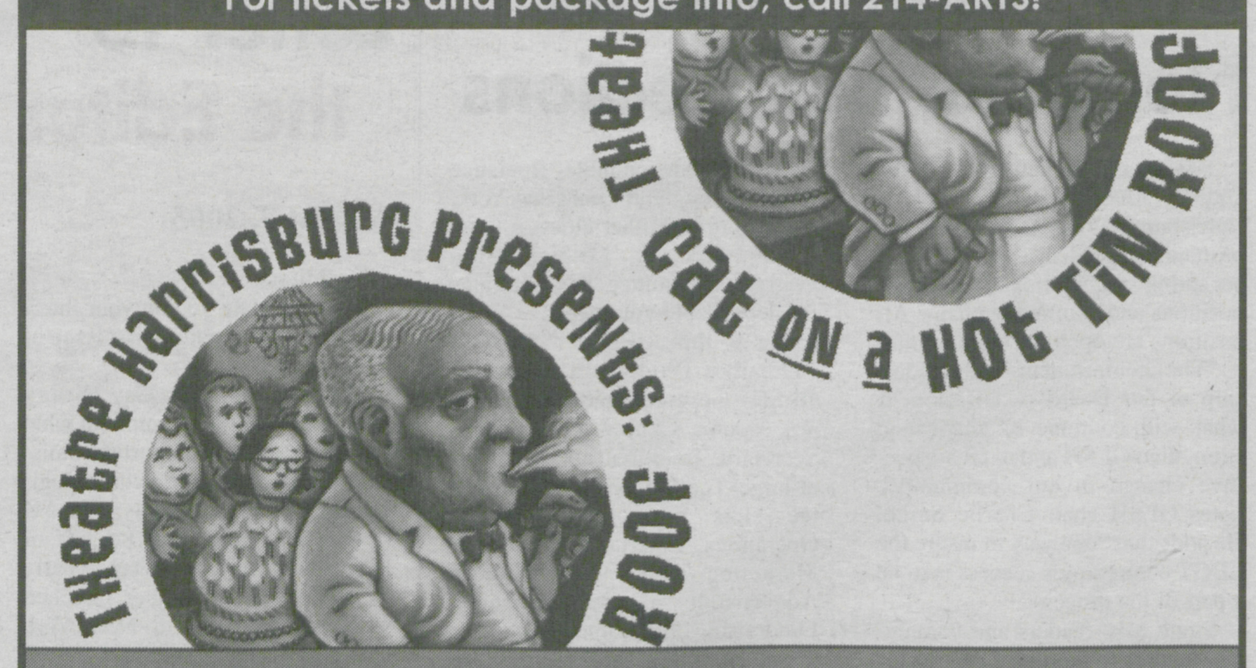

Theatre Harrisburg Presents the Pulitzer Prize winning:

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

A dramatic tour de force from Tennessee Williams, shining a light on the human thirst for understanding and passion.

Showing at Whitaker Center from September 12-21. Tickets are only $25 & $15.00

Make a night of it... Special **Parev** dinner package: $57 for four-course dinner, free parking, orchestra-level seating & dessert following the show! Also, ask about our Hilton lodging package!

Sponsored by: Whitaker Center, Arts, Allied Arts Fund

News NOTES

Social Work Training September 25

New Jersey National Association of Social Work (NASW) is sponsoring a one-day conference: "Understanding and Respecting Difference 2003: Tools for Social Work with Sexual Orientation and Gender Expression Issues" on September 25, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Rutgers University Busch Campus Center, Piscataway, NJ. Jeanne W. Anastas, MSW, PhD is the keynote speaker. For more information/registration form: *http://www.naswnj.org/lgbt2003.htm.*

Savage Talk: You Decide

Michael Savage, former MSNBC talk show host, to a gay man who phoned his TV show July 5:

"Oh, you're one of the sodomites! You should only get AIDS and die, you pig! How's that? Why don't you see if you can sue me, you pig? You got nothing better than to put me down, you piece of garbage? You got nothing to do today? Go eat a sausage and choke on it. Get trichinosis. OK, do I have another nice caller here who's busy because he didn't have a nice night in the bathhouse who's angry at me today? Huh? Get me another one. Put another sodomite on! No more calls? I don't care. Let's go to the next scene. I don't care about these bums, they mean nothing to me. They're all sausages." Two days later the show was cancelled, in part, to these comments.

Michael Savage to beat poet and personal friend Allen Ginsberg in a March 8,1970 letter:

Dear Allen, After speaking to you on the phone about how nice the black-white thing is in the mountain villages in Fiji, I walked downstairs to the school courtyard, where a little brown-black brother looks at me, takes my hand gently, we do some old-world Lower East Side finger tricks, and he peacefully kisses the back of my hand – I do the same for his hand. I told him about our brief talk, and he says, "I must have felt the vibes." Michael Weiner, Botany Dept., University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI.

Alternative Central to Michael Savage:

"Homophobia is apparently associated with homosexual arousal that the homosexual individual is either unaware of or denies", according to research on homophobia published in "The Journal of Abnormal Psychology". Isn't it about time that "homophobia" had its own diagnostic classification in the official code book of psychiatric disorders?

Peewee League Dad with AIDS Banned from Coaching

From Wire reports - Stephen Derrig, a former firefighter with AIDS, was recently barred from coaching his son's peewee football team. The ousting of Stephen Derrig by the Ellet (Ohio) Suburban Football League has dominated Ohio talk radio programs and television. Derrig, who contracted the disease while working as a firefighter/paramedic, later appeared on the "Today" show with his wife, Melissa.

"It's not the kind of attention Ellet, and its much-lauded athletic program needs, "said state Rep. Bob Otterman, who lives in Ellet and help founder the athletic program.

"This is a black eye for the whole organization, and the sooner they get it over with, the better," Otterman said Wednesday. "I would think they'd want to rethink the whole episode and say, `Hey, we made a mistake. We didn't have all the information.'

The leagues director, Dan Gable, said he received anonymous calls from people identifying themselves as parents and expressing concern about Derrig coming in contact with their children. In an emotional meeting on the issue, nearly all of the parents supported Derrig and castigated the board for failing to understand how AIDS is transmitted.

League officials said they're getting skewered unfairly for the decision, one they said was based only partially on the fact that Derrig has AIDS. Officials contend Derrig also got hostile when board members tried to talk to him and threatened to sue after they forced Derrig to leave the football field during a practice last week.

"No one was prepared for this issue," a League representative said. "We don't know how to handle it the right way. But even if it's the wrong decision, it still doesn't hurt the kids."

Kathleen Engel, assistant professor of law at Cleveland State University's Marshall School of Law, said Derrig probably could file a discrimination claim against the organization if it continues to bar him.

Waiting List for adult Basic Coverage Exceeds Number Served

About 44,000 adults between the ages of 19 and 64 are buying health insurance from the state's

adultBasic program for $30 per month, according to statistics released by the state Insurance Department. Another 50,000 people, with income below 200% of the poverty line, are on the waiting list, but cannot access the program because of limited state funding. Of these, about 1,300 persons are buying health coverage at cost (approximately $210 per month) while they

wait. The state estimates that between 300,000 and 350,000 Pennsylvanians qualify for the program, but most are not in the program or on the waiting list. Many persons don't know about the program, and others don't want to get

continued on page 16

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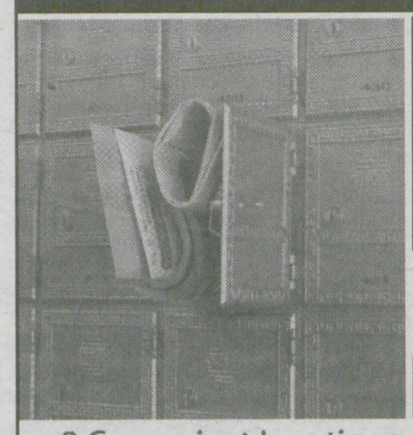

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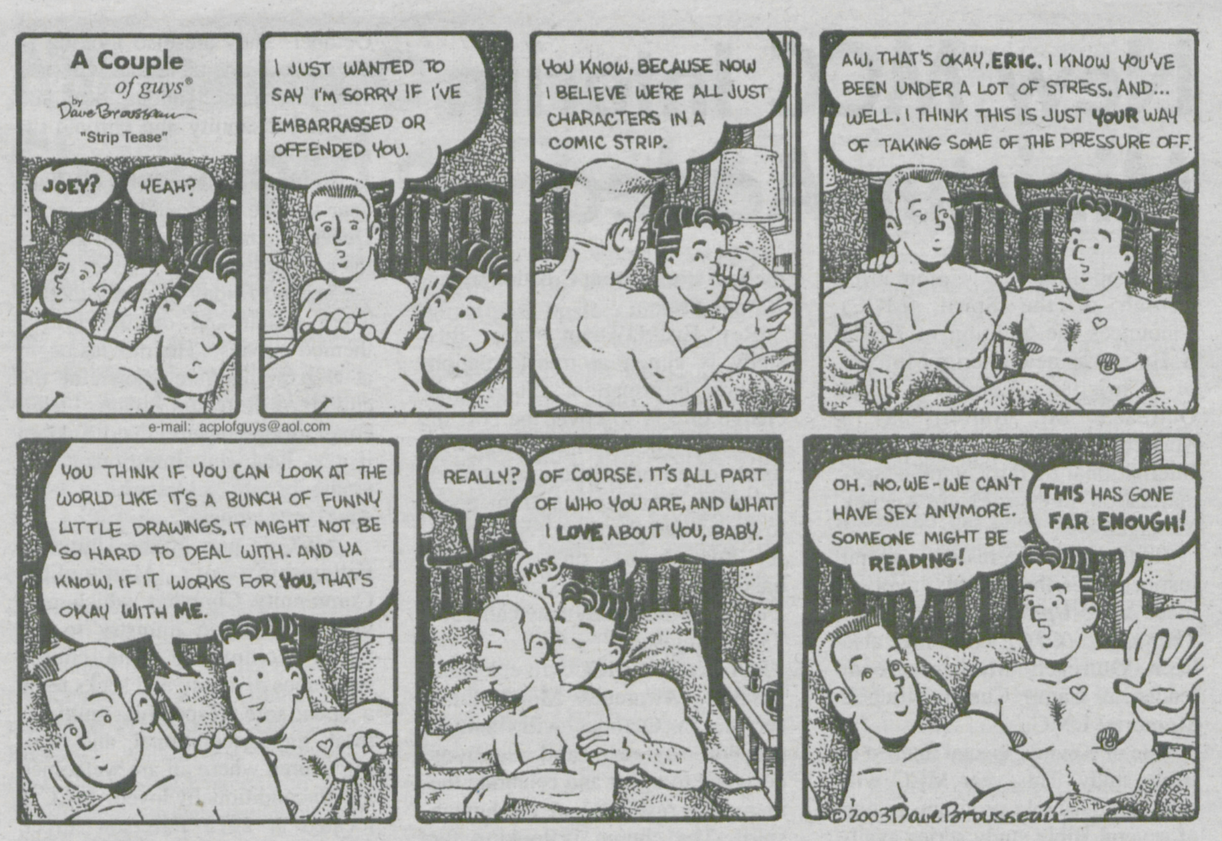
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AW, THAT'S OKAY, ERIC. I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN UNDER A LOT OF STRESS. AND... WELL, I THINK THIS IS JUST YOUR WAY OF TAKING SOME OF THE PRESSURE OFF.
e-mail: acplofguys@aol.com
YOU THINK IF YOU CAN LOOK AT THE WORLD LIKE IT'S A BUNCH OF FUNNY LITTLE DRAWINGS, IT MIGHT NOT BE SO HARD TO DEAL WITH. AND YA KNOW, IF IT WORKS FOR YOU, THAT'S OKAY WITH ME.
REALLY?
OF COURSE. IT'S ALL PART OF WHO YOU ARE, AND WHAT I LOVE ABOUT YOU, BABY.
KISS
OH. NO. WE - WE CAN'T HAVE SEX ANYMORE. SOMEONE MIGHT BE READING!
THIS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH!
©2003 Dave Broussard

First Gay High School Opens In New York City

By Lisa Granite

The world's first fully accredited public high school for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) students opens in September with 100 students. Located in New York City's East Village, The Hetrick-Martin Institute's (HMI) Harvey Milk School student body is expected to grow to 170.

Named after San Francisco's first openly gay supervisor, who was assassinated in 1978, The Harvey Milk School (HMS) initially opened in 1984. The school began with only two classrooms as part of New York City Department of Education's Career Education Center. Proving to be a successful haven for students, it boasts a 95 percent graduation rate.

In June 2002, New York City's Board of Education approved $3.2 million in city funds to renovate and expand the school, allowing it to operate as a stand-alone high school. Though the school was created to meet the needs of LGBTQ youth, all students are welcome to attend regardless of orientation.

"HMI exists because there is a need," said HMI Board Chairman Bari J. Mattes. "That need is a space for youth to be safe and supported. Kids should not be subjected to violence while they are trying to learn or grow. My husband and I believe, as do many allies of the LGBTQ community, [that] this is not an issue of gay vs. straight or segregation. It's a question of what's best for youth in the world in which we live, one where they are not accepted and [are] discriminated against on a daily basis."

Founded in 1979, HMI is the oldest and largest nonprofit organization devoted to helping LGBTQ youth. It has three major departments: HMS, Supportive Services and After-School Services. It began much the same way central Pennsylvania's Common Roads did – as a small program assembled in response to the growing need for safe space and quality programming for LGBTQ youth and families.

William Salzman, a former Wall Street executive and assistant principal of guidance and business at Brooklyn's Automotive High School, will serve as principal of the newly renovated high school.

"This school will be a model for the country and possibly the world," Salzman told the *New York Post.* He explained that the school will be "academically rigorous" and will follow the state's mandatory English and math programs. HMS will also offer computer technology, arts and culinary arts. The curriculum and admission standards will be the same as for other New York City schools.

According to the *Post,* the renovated school will have a new science lab, 60 laptop and desktop computers (donated by IBM), more classrooms and a new cafeteria.

Some critics of the school have focused on the segregation issue. "Is there a different way to teach homosexuals? Is there gay math? This is wrong," New York State Conservative Party Chairman Mike Long said. "There's no reason these children should be treated separately."

There may not be a different way to teach GLBT youth, but HMS does offer them the opportunity to learn in a different environment. Part of the HMI website (www.hmi.org) FAQ reads, "If you are 12 to 21 and want to be part of a progressive youth program set in a hate-free space, then HMI is for you."

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Lesbian NOTATIONS

by Paula Martinac

All the recent renewed attention on same-sex marriage makes me nervous.

U.S. gay couples can now marry legally in Canada, and many are traveling there to 20 tie the knot, as the Rev. Troy Perry of the Metropolitan Community

Church has encouraged us all to do. They may then come home and start checking off "married" instead of "single" on official forms and applications, or even filing their taxes jointly. Alternately, they might try to test the waters of the ruling in Lawrence v. Texas, which extended privacy rights to gay couples, and file lawsuits when their applications for marriage licenses are denied.

But are such actions wise? Some well-intentioned but perhaps not clearly thought-out measures by lesbian and gay couples - taken on their own, without the counsel of major gay organizations - could backfire, hurting them and setting the same-sex marriage movement back several steps. If that happens, however, it won't be entirely the fault of those couples, who are yearning to have their primary relationships acknowledged. Gay organizations will also be to blame, since they are well aware of the pitfalls couples face in undertaking marriage activism and haven't stressed the drawbacks strongly enough.

Consider that, in the wake of Ontario's historic ruling on same-sex marriage, five of the major U.S. gay groups working for marriage rights posted a document online called "Thinking of Getting Married in Canada?" The advisory asserted that "when couples who marry in Canada come home they will be as married as any people on the planet." The document then listed all the different ways they could identify as such - "on applications/forms for jobs, apartments, credit, mortgages, insurance, medical treatment, and taxes." But the warnings to couples were pretty mild: "Some but not all businesses, states, and others will refuse to honor these lawful marriages, along with the federal government." At the very end, in a spot easily overlooked, the missive suggested contacting a gay organization before undertaking a lawsuit.

Let's be more specific about the possible ramifications for same-sex couples. Without an Employment Non-Discrimination Act, is it wise to suggest that gay people can be open at work or with potential employers about their same-sex spouses? Not all of us have jobs where we feel so comfortable - which is the reason we need ENDA. When I was writing a book on same-sex marriage several years ago, I interviewed a lesbian who had been slapped with a sexual harassment suit by a co-worker simply for having a photo of her lover on her desk.

More questions: If a couple united in Canada comes home to a state or city without a gay rights law, what will they face when they look for an apartment as a married couple? Or if one of them needs emergency medical treatment, will a Canadian marriage really stop clueless hospital staff in the United States from discriminating against them with regard to visitation rights?

Then there's the sticky matter of taxes. Under the Defense of Marriage Act, the U.S. government won't recognize marriages that aren't between a man and a woman. Reporter Laura Conaway of the "Village Voice" investigated what might happen to a same-sex couple who marries in Canada and then files a joint federal tax return; disturbingly, she found that the IRS would very likely red-flag their 1040 for an audit, and that penalties might include fines and imprisonment. Add to that the 37 states with their own mini-DOMAs, which could place couples in hot water for their local taxes, too.

Of course, some U.S. couples might be aware of the potential legal problems and still decide to wed in Canada (or in a state where gay marriage becomes legal). If they're doing so for their own emotional needs, that's completely understandable; the desire to marry is deeply rooted in many of us, and there have been a number of moving stories about gay couples who embarked on Vermont civil unions or Canadian marriages for purely symbolic reasons.

However, I hope most of these couples won't rush to try to have their marriages legally recognized at home. Decisions about which lawsuits would make the best test cases for gay marriage are better left to the activists who work daily for our rights, and who are able to view same-sex marriage as part of a bigger picture, not just as individual couples here and there. Gay couples considering lawsuits would do well to think less about self-interest and more about the good of the whole community. Remember that Rosa Parks wasn't just a tired black woman who spontaneously decided not to give up her seat on the bus to a white man - she was working in tandem with the NAACP, and was a trained, long-time activist for civil rights.

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books and editor in chief of Q Syndicate. She can be reached care of this publication or at PMcolumn@aol.com.

Glassman Appointed Commission Chair

The Statewide Pennsylvania Rights Coalition (SPARC) announced in July that Stephen A. Glassman, AIA was appointed by Governor Ed Rendell (D. PA) Chairperson of the Pennsylvania State Human Relations Commission.

Glassman is the first openly gay individual ever to receive a statewide appointment subject to Senate confirmation to a Pennsylvania board or commission.

Glassman has been a tireless advocate over many years for inclusive civil rights legislation for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community in Pennsylvania and was instrumental in the passage of HB 1493, the historic "Hate Crimes Bill", which was signed into law by Governor Schweiker in December of 2002.

"Steve has built a national reputation for his work on behalf of human rights and he has served the Human Relations Commission with distinction since his appointment in May of last year," Rendell said.

"I couldn't think of more suitable individual to lead the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. Steve's dedication and commitment is unfaltering and admirable," said Jennifer Storm, Managing Director of SPARC.

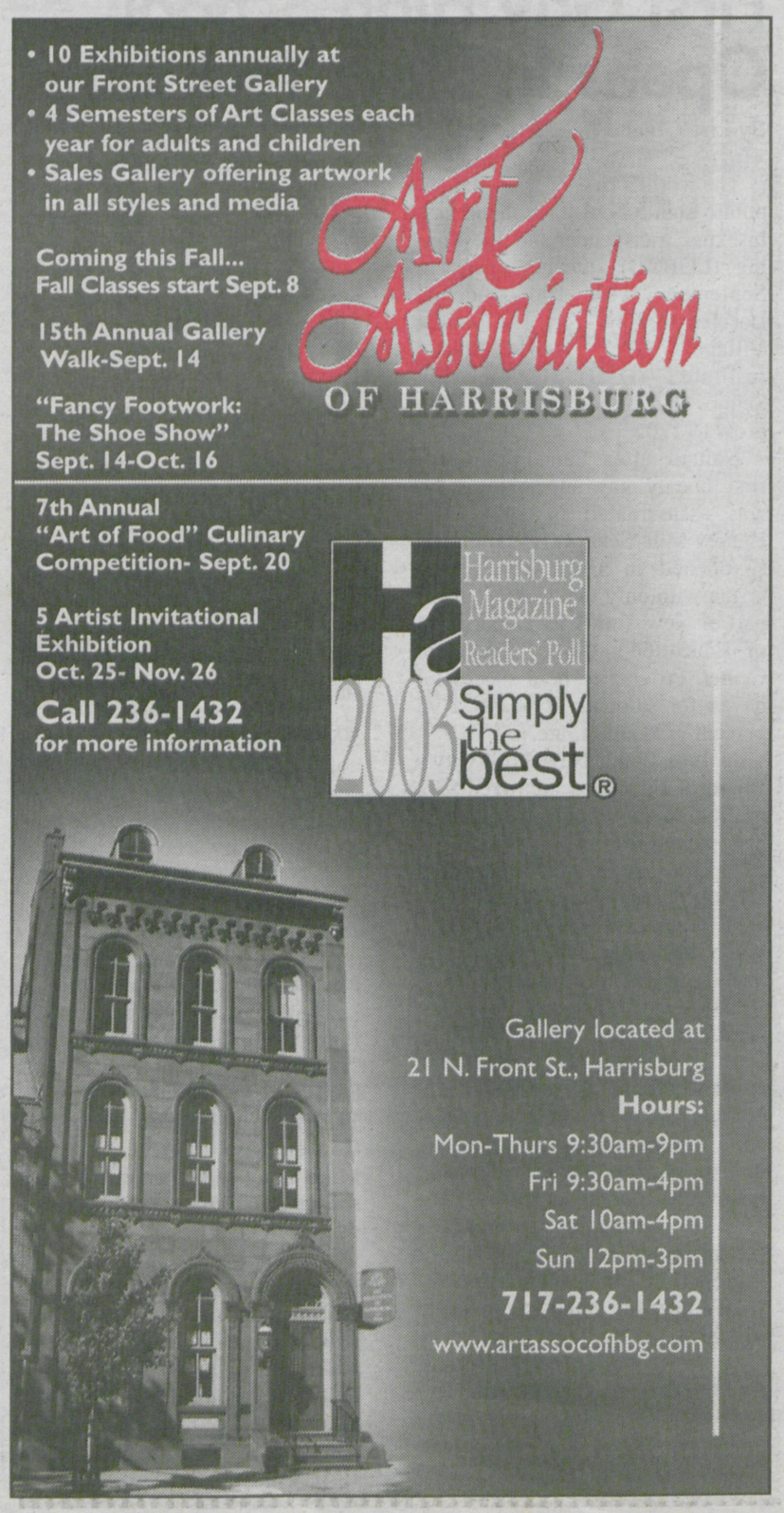
"The Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights congratulates Steve and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission on his appointment. Steve is truly dedicated to civil rights, fairness and justice for all Pennsylvanians. We look forward to working with him and the Commission on securing non-discrimination protections for the LGBT community," said Stacey L. Sobel, executive director of the Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights.

"The Governor has made an exceptional choice. No one is more committed to fairness than Steve Glassman," stated Mara Keisling, PA Gender Rights Coalition.

Commission

The commission was created in 1955 to investigate bias complaints in housing, employment, commercial property, public accommodations, and education. It can order monetary damages for complainants, and enforce those orders in Commonwealth Court. The 11-member commission investigates bias complaints on the basis of race, color, familial status, religious creed, ancestry, handicap or disability, age, sex, national origin, and use of a guide or support animal.

Glassman was the first openly gay political appointee in Baltimore, MD where he served for five years as Civic Design Commissioner under Mayor Kurt Schmoke. He has served on a wide variety of national, state, and local boards including the ACLU, the Human Rights Campaign, the LGBT Community Center of Baltimore, the Names Project, and the Yale University LGBT Study Center among others. He currently resides on a farm in New Oxford, Pennsylvania, facilitates and chairs the board of Common Roads (Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Transgender Youth) support group in Harrisburg, and co-chairs SPARC, the largest group in the state working to achieve equal rights legislation on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.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New MCC Interim Minister Added

Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit (MCC) announces the addition of Kevin E. Burrell as new interim Minister of Christian Education and Outreach. Mr. Burrell has a Masters Degree in Public and International Affairs with a specialization in Non-Profit Agency Management.

He is deeply interested in social justice issues through his involvement with *Uptown Communities That Care (CTC)*. He has also been Outreach Ministry Team leader at Camp Curtin Mitchell Memorial UMC.

One of Kevin's special interest is Bible study. This year MCC will offer the Disciple program as one of several Bible study series available through the church. Disciple is a 34-week Bible study that allows participants to move through the biblical stories from Creation to the New Jerusalem.

Rev. Eva O'Diam states "this study is aimed at transformation not just information." There is a charge of $54 to cover the cost of materials. The Disciple group will meet for an orientation session on Saturday, September 6 from noon to 5 p.m. and then proceed to meet for two hours on a weekly basis. People interested in the Disciple Bible Study may call 236-7387 to register.

In October, MCC will celebrate Disability Awareness Month. Each service in October will include prayers, hymns, and sermons designed to uplift and celebrate the incredible resilience of the human spirit. The church is looking for people with any kind of chronic illness or disability to be worship leaders during the month of October. They are also looking to have a resource table that will provide information about local and national disability and chronic illness groups.

Returning this fall for its third year will be the social ministry of Queer Cinema. This social gathering of folks who love movies meets the second Friday of every month. They watch and discuss GLBT themed movies. The movies begin at 8 p.m. and are shown at the church on Jefferson Street. Please email group leader Donald Anklam if you have any questions. His email address is danklam@att.net.

MCC is part of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches which provide a Christian ministry to the GLBT community. The church welcomes diversity and seeks to be a open, safe, respectful, multicultural, multigenerational, and healing church where all are welcomed and unconditionally loved. MCC is located at 2973 Jefferson Street, Harrisburg. Worship services are held each Sunday at 9:00 a. m., 10:30 a.m., and 7:00 p.m.

bitter girl

Snappy Answers to Breakup Questions
SO...CAN WE BE FRIENDS AGAIN SOON?
SURE, WHAT'RE YOU DOING IN 2006?
NO TIME IS A GOOD TIME TO TELL YOU THIS - RIGHT?
NO. CROSSING THE CANADIAN BORDER IS THE PERFECT TIME.
YOU'RE NOT SURPRISED, ARE YOU?
NO. I ALWAYS GET NAKED BEFORE SOMEONE HURTS MY FEELINGS. IT'S MORE FUN THAT WAY.
AREN'T YOU GOING TO ASK ME IF THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE?
NO. I'M GOING TO ASK IF I CAN BORROW YOUR CAR AND DRIVE IT THROUGH A HOG FARM.
JOAN HILTY ©2003
kaibito1@aol.com

Business Showcase: The Pink Lizard

Owner: Marcia Greise
Partner: Sabrina Lay

by Ben Patenaude
Alternative Central
Co–Editor/Publisher

The first thing you see when you walk into The Pink Lizard is a big smile. A friendly greeting follows. What a great place to spend an evening with friends.

Marcia Greise, the establishment's sole proprietor, opened the place because of the love for people. And it shows.

She moved here in 1989 from Maryland and worked for FedEx for 11 years before buying the bar, which was then known as "Btls". On July 26th (Pride Day), the popular place celebrated its 4th anniversary as "The Pink Lizard". Marcia believes what makes a business successful is that you must give in order to receive.

She is constantly doing something for the LGBT community through the bar and enjoys seeing the people have a good time. She feels fortunate to be part of our community and be able to do something in return. For example, Marcia sponsors a softball team and a dart team who both carry the name "The Pink Lizard".

Sabrina is the artist who creates the visual effects for the bar and I must say they are very well done. When I met Sabrina, she had just returned from painting a house and stopped to talk for a few minutes before starting another project in the bar. She said with a big smile, "We love everyone". Sabrina and Marcia are really nice, down to earth, honest folks who work hard for their money.

Many of you may not be aware that the bar was broken into, robbed and vandalized by a group of youngsters who have been doing that sort of thing for a while now. All the cash registers, game machines, and the new ATM machine were smashed and the money was stolen. Marcia had replaced the door only to have it damaged a week later when the kids tried to break in again, but did not get inside.

A third attempt was made and the cameras were smashed, but that attempt failed as well. This is the first time any break-ins have occurred at the bar and hopefully the last. The kids were caught, but the police did not have enough evidence and at least one of them walked!

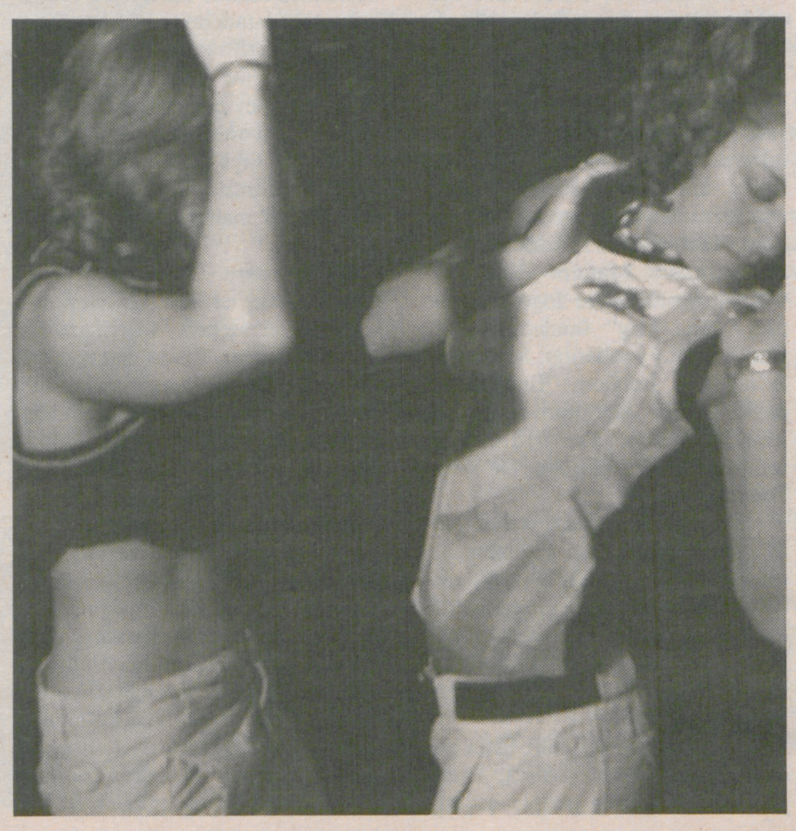
The case is still pending against the other juvenile. Now Marcia is in the rebuilding process and your business is greatly appreciated. She is thankful for the support received from the community especially during this time.

Don't forget that the first Sunday of NFL Football "The Pink Lizard" will officially be open and every Sunday thereafter. Marcia and Sabrina send out a big "thank you' to everyone for helping them achieve this goal.

"The Pink Lizard" is holding the third annual "Rally for a Cure" golf tour on Sunday, September 14 at the Silver Spring Golf Course. This is a fundraiser for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

And Friday October 31 is the Annual Halloween Party, so plan ahead to attend the festivities.

For further information contact pinklizard891@aol.com or 717-939-1123.



Loving the Gay Wallet continued

print campaigns for major companies. "When one company goes in there, there's pressure on its competitors (to do the same)," he says. Buford notes a dramatic increase in gay-specific ads in niche publications like Alternative Central.

Does all this attention indicate something good? Well, yes and no.

For starters, such ads belie a level of greater societal acceptance. For example, 1999 comments from Levi-Strauss after their Dockers brand advertised in *Out* magazine are proof that at least some companies think about their advertising actions. "It was our way, as a major brand, to acknowledge gay men and women as really productive human beings," said Mark Malinowski, Dockers' senior marketing specialist.

Can the single lesbian mom or gay dad always afford to purchase a new Volvo? Maybe yes, maybe no. Can the average HIV/AIDS patient expect to jet off on one of the glorious gay-themed travel adventures frequently pictured in slick magazines? Probably not. Nonetheless, these images hold power. And I don't just mean beautiful photography and attractive models.

When you look-up "gay buying power" on the Internet, one of the first items you find is a large number of advertising companies purporting to understand the gay consumer's psyche. I'm not an advertising expert, but most market sources note that LGBT consumers are more loyal and trend-savvy. We're also, generally, more affluent than average shoppers.

We also respond to advertising that reflects our sensibilities. Our market's faithful quality indicates we'll stick with those who stick with us. This quality isn't the worst way for us to be characterized. It's certainly better than what our worst critics like to say about us.

And that thought brings us to the

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AIDS Community Alliance Moves

AIDS Community Alliance (ACA) recently moved to 401 Division Street, Suite 100. The new location is the agency's second home since the seven-county service organization relocated its administrative offices to Harrisburg in 2000, according to CEO Phil Goropoulos.

Over the past four years, ACA has marked progress in the quality and quantity of services, and the number and accessibility of locations from which its staff offers client services. "Yet, despite broad improvements, many of us see the need for a renewed commitment to preventing HIV infection," Goropoulos says. He reports that as of July the number of new HIV infections among gay men was reported to increase by over 7 percent. In June, his staff documented our first ever female-to-female sexual transmission of HIV.

"In the light of a changing society and the new challenges facing our community, maybe this move will signal a new commitment to prevent new HIV infections," he says. He foresees that 401 Division Street can easily become a place where the local gay community and its allies rally to end to the epidemic.

For more information on how to get involved,
call 1-800-867-1550.

Allentown Ordinance Challenged on "Values"

Allentown-based Citizens for Traditional Values (CTV) has filed lawsuit challenging that city's Human Relations Ordinance as a violation of the Pennsylvania Constitution. CTV lead the opposition to amending Allentown's ordinance to include sexual orientation, gender and gender identity. The group also spearheaded last summer's petition drive to repeal the amendments by ballot referendum, reports Steve Black, PA Gay & Lesbian Alliance.

If found invalid in Allentown, the challenge could affect similar ordinances in Erie County, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, New Hope, State College and York that include sexual orientation and gender identity.

In the suit, four plaintiffs claim that the ordinance forces them to accept morally repugnant lifestyles when hiring employees or renting homes. It also argues that Allentown City Council overstepped its legal authority by approving protections not already extended by state law.

A summary of Joe McDermott's reporting in the Allentown Morning Call indicates the legal battle is in full swing.

''What's the deal? Are they saying they are desperately afraid of gay people and it's keeping them awake at night?" said Allentown resident Liz Bradbury, co-chairwoman of the Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance. ''Are they saying they are planning on discriminating against someone and want to be protected?"

The challenge was filed on behalf of Bethlehem resident Gerry Hartman, who owns a rental property in Allentown, and Allentown businessman-landlord John Lapinski and landlords Robert and Debbie Roycroft.

When the controversy first broke, Lancaster attorney Randall Wenger, whose firm works with the Alliance Defense Fund of Phoenix, declined to say whether his clients have been "forced" to hire an employee or rent to a tenant despite apprehensions about their sexual orientation.

''Essentially it's being brought more peremptorily," said Wenger, a graduate of Alliance Defense Fund's National Litigation Academy.

Alliance, founded by conservative evangelists James Dobson of Focus on the Family, D. James Kennedy of Coral Springs Ministries and Bill Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ, has tackled cases around the nation in recent years.

Last year it helped overturn a Philadelphia law that approved domestic partnerships. It is also backing a suit in New Orleans challenging that city's law offering health care benefits to partners of gay employees.

''Their mission is to promote religious liberties, the sanctity of life and traditional family values," said Wenger, adding that his firm is working on the Allentown case free.

The Allentown amendment extends anti-discrimination protection to residents based on sexual orientation or gender identity. ''The Pennsylvania Human Relations Act does not provide for protections based on sexual orientation or gender identity. The state public policy does not extend such protections," the suit states.

Homer Floyd, executive director of the state Human Relations Commission (HRC), said state law does not exclude the extension of additional protections by local officials. At least eight cities in the state offer the same protections, he said.

''It has always been our understanding that a city can go beyond our statutes and add protections," Floyd said. The state commission has asked the Legislature to add sexual orientation and gender identity to the act, he said.

Newly appointed HRC chairman and out gay man Stephen A. Glassman, AIA, says, "Although the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act does not currently cover 'sexual orientation and gender identity or expression' the Commission has made it clear that it would like to see the act amended to be more inclusive".

The trend in Pennsylvania is certainly in this direction. Governor Ed Rendell has recently signed an Executive Order banning discrimination for more than 87,000 state employees on the basis of "sexual orientation and gender identity or expression". Last year former Republican Governor Schweiker signed into law a Hate Crimes Bill which includes both of these protected classes and which passed both houses of the legislature by a two thirds margin. "There is, clearly, a bipartisan effort to bring Pennsylvania into a competitive position with many other states, notably our neighbors New York, Maryland, and New Jersey, who have already included similar protections," Glassman notes".

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LITTLE RICHARD
Sunday, September 14, 2003, 7:30 pm

THE NOBODIES Of COMEDY
Monday, September 15, 2003, 7:30 pm

NOWHERE IN AFRICA
Tuesday, September 16, 2003, 7:30 pm

SEPTEMBER

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Tuesday, September 23, 2003, 7:30 pm
Wednesday, September 24, 2003, 2:00 pm
Thursday, September 25, 2003, 7:30 pm

OCTOBER

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Saturday, October 4, 2003, 2:00 & 7:30 pm

TANGO PASIÓN – Saturday, October 4, 2003, 7:30 pm
ANN-MARGRET – Sunday, October 5, 2003, 7:30 pm
LEAHY – Sunday, October 12, 2003, 7:30 pm
ANNE MURRAY – Wednesday, October 15, 2003, 7:30 pm
CARROT TOP – Sunday, October 19, 2003, 7:30 pm
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THE TEMPTATIONS – Thursday, October 30, 2003, 7:30 pm

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Documents Need Safe Storage

By Johanna M. Dolan
Dolan & Associates

When was the last time you were searching for an important document you just knew you had? It must be in the closet. Maybe in the garage? Not there? Time to check the basement. Well, maybe that's the one that "got away".

With the mountains of paper that filter through your home and office on a daily basis, how do you know what to keep and where to keep it? How long to keep it is an entirely different story and one that we'll get to at another time.

Keeping it simple, documents that are important to keep are the ones that define the "stuff" your life is made up of. Do you own your home? If so, do you know where the deed or title is? Do you file your taxes? Where do you store the completed tax returns? Do you own investments? Where are the statements kept? Do you know how much you paid for that share of stock you are preparing to sell? If you died today would the important people in your life know where to find your will, trust documents or insurance policies?

Homeowners, a good rule of thumb when saving important paperwork is to retain mortgage papers, the deed or title to your home and records of major improvements or repairs to your home. These are important at tax time, the sale of your home, when your home is refinanced and at the settlement of estates.

You file your taxes. You've saved your receipts all year. You sent your only copy to the IRS. You've heard your accountant say it before, "Save your taxes seven years!" Print off your electronic files and file it. If you scan everything in your computer - save it and file it.

Investment owners, this includes bond owners, save the trade confirmations and statements your broker sends you. These play an important role at tax time and in making certain you don't pay too much in taxes when you sell investments. Discrepancies happen. If you can prove the price you originally paid you save yourself and your advisors unnecessary extra time and money.

When it is time for your loved ones to settle your estate it's important that they be able to locate the documents that spell out your wishes. Keep a copy of your estate planning documents; including your will; your insurance policies; your trust documents, with your lawyer and your other pertinent personal information.

One last thing to keep good records of is your personal effects. Have a record of the credit cards in your wallet and the contact numbers for them – you never know if you will misplace your wallet. Take digital photos of your personal effects, they will assist your insurance company to settle your claim if ever needed.

Now that it's all together and organized, where do you put it? There are a number of options for that.

You can scan it and save it in your computer. If you do so, back it up! Keep a copy of the back up with the originals. Consider giving a copy to your attorney. You can save a copy in a fireproof lockbox in your home.

You can also consider saving it at your local bank in your safe deposit box. The points are keep it together, keep it safe from water or fire damage, and keep it where someone else can find it or knows where it is kept. If you can answer yes, it's together; yes, it's safe and yes, so-and-so knows where it is and where the key is located – you're well on your way to protecting your sanity and the life you've created for yourself so far.

Fear of Violence

REALITY FOR GAY MAN

by Frank Pizzoli

"I used to fear the threat of impending violence more than the thought of it actually happening," remembers Rob Elijah Shoeman, 25, who nows goes by Rob Elijah. As pressures mounted on him as Middletown High School's only "out" 15-year-old gay boy in 1993, he eventually suffered taunting, harassment, and the firebombing of his mom's car.

"The adults in school and the community were no help either," he says, his eyes drifting off to scenes from a distant past now glossed over by a bright future as a successful working artist. Despite injuries to body, heart, and soul, Rob's smile today is strong and confident. He illustrates children's books and designs business logos, among them Mangia Qui, The 10th Muse, and the logo for the play "One Day" funded by the Princess Di Foundation. Sculpture is his real passion. "Illustration pays my bills. Sculpture feeds my soul," he says. Currently, he's sculpting in Washington, DC several days a week.

Before molding his life into that of a successful young gay man, he found solace in Common Roads (CR), a regional youth group for 12 to 24-year olds that meets every Friday in their new Community Center, 1300A N. 3rd Street, Harrisburg.

"We routinely get calls from all over central Pennsylvania, from parents and young people asking about ways to find a 'safe space' in which to be themselves", says Carol Reisinger, CR executive director. The center is also home to the Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg and PrideFest, an annual celebration of diversity, and central Pennsylvania's annual Gay & Lesbian Film Festival.

Initially, being himself brought Rob lots of attention, but not in positive ways.

"After the school's All-American female cheerleader and I came out, students and townspeople would follow me around taunting, daring me to tell them that I was gay. They couldn't believe that someone would actually answer 'yes'", he says laughing. Quickly, his life became a "freak show" and he was "the main act in the circus", Rob says.

Everywhere he went in Middletown, he was harassed and verbally threatened. "My life was a Jerry Springer Show except the security guards weren't running in at the last minute to rescue me from the idiots". Research on homophobia published in "The Journal of Abnormal Psychology" notes, "Homophobia is apparently associated with homosexual arousal that the homosexual individual is either unaware of or denies".

Then came death threats. Under the cover of darkness, hand-written notes by faceless weasels placed in his mail box warned him his family would find his body "in a dumpster". Similar hate and violent messages ended up on his family's telephone message machine.

He realizes now that the threats escalated to death threats because he wouldn't succumb to others' negative image of gay people. "It's like they were insulted and grew more furious because I wasn't letting them see I was affected their there prejudice.

It seemed to make them angry that I actually liked and accepted myself", Rob remembers.

Hell hath no furry like bigots with gay-on-the-brain, and Rob's detractors next firebombed his mom's car.

"That was the last straw. After 11th grade, we moved to Harrisburg out of that Cretan swamp. I finished my GED and went to art school", Rob sums up. One of his sculpture creations seen in novelty shops is "Bulldog", the US Marines' football team mascot.

He won't ask, but you can tell everyone it's his and that he's here, he's queer and they can get over it.

He thinks that in today's consumer culture, "young people are so easily and eagerly assimilated into a generic pop culture and spit out when they're no longer useful". He advises young folks to be cautious of media images that aren't real, but invented to evoke an emotional response.

"Be an individual. Create yourself from your gifts and strengths. Being true to yourself will get you noticed". Kids from high school who would stand off on the sidelines while bully's attacked Rob today run up to him on the street offering big hugs.

"They're all aware of what I've accomplished in spite of the prejudice," he says proudly. "It's nice to have my artistic work acknowledged".

Frank Pizzoli's (FPizzoli@aol.com) work appears nationally in Instinct, POZ, and New York Blade.

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FAB Stages continued

FAB is one of the first events to be held in the newly renovated space.

From Harrisburg's Second Street I-83 entrance ramp to the main entrance of the Strand is only 19 minutes.

Philanthropy

Proceeds from FAB 2003 will benefit organizations serving the gay and lesbian community in central Pennsylvania. All of the money raised by FAB since 1999 has gone to The Equity for Gays and Lesbians Partnership (EGAL) fund. The fund is a special project of the Greater Harrisburg Foundation whose goal is to grant funds to local organizations serving the LGBT community.

Funds raised in 2002 and matched by the National Lesbian and Gay Community Funding Partnership have benefited several area organizations including The Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, Common Roads youth group, SPARC (Statewide Pennsylvania Rights Coalition), and The Woman's Circle.

Evening Fun

The VIP Reception with the Suzanne Westenhoefer is 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. and features a premium open bar and hors d'oeuvres. VIP ticket holders also will have special reserved seating for the performance. FAB's Main Event begins 7:00 p.m. Throughout the evening, guests can dance to the Charlie Van horn Big Band, a dance band that swings.

Another highlight of the evening is the awards presentation recognizing an individual or individuals who have made a difference in our community. If you would like to nominate an individual visit the FAB website at www.fab-org to download a nomination form.

Funny Suzanne

Following the awards ceremony, the region's own outrageously funny Suzanne Westenhoefer will make you laugh until you cry. She is currently on tour and has just released a new CD called "Guaranteed Fresh". This year, she became the first out lesbian or gay comedian to perform on "Late Night with David Letterman". Suzanne has appeared on numerous comedy specials including her own HBO special and has had engagements at theaters, clubs, colleges, fundraisers and social events across the US and Canada. She continues to perform over 100 live comedy concerts a year, and her current show is playing to sold out crowds. Suzanne has been nominated for the prestigious GLADD media award and has won two Gay and Lesbian American Music Awards (GLAMA) in 1998 and 2000 for best comedy CD.

Silent Auction

Silent Auction items will be on display all evening for bidding, and there also will be items sold to the highest bidder during a live auction. Our community and friends of our community have supported FAB through their donations of hundreds of auction items since the annual event began. Many of these businesses and friends have come through for us every year. Items donated in the past have included a wide variety of eclectic and one-of-a-kind things to bid on from weekend get aways to hand-painted stemware.

FAB promises more great items this year. This is a great opportunity to buy something for yourself or to start your holiday shopping. There are some great deals to be had. If you or your business would like to donate an auction item, information and a donation sheet

continued on page 12

Book Review Fred Shelley: Not your ordinary gay book

by Michael Chapaloney

Did you ever shake your head after an evening with friends and think, "Whoa, now that was one worthy of the papers," or "They should make that into a sitcom someday."

But honestly, does anyone truly ever write that stuff down? Well, the answer is yes, Fred Shelley has collected these thoughts, happenings and adventures into his book, "A Boy Less Ordinary: The Hayden Chronicles." Shelley compiled the book from the first two and a half years of his weekly column, "Six Degrees of Hayden Shelley."

Fred Shelley appeared for a book signing at Pride Fest 2003 held July 26 in Harrisburg.

If you are looking for someone to relate to, laugh at or laugh with, then "Less Ordinary" is where you can stop your search. Shelley pulls conscious and subconscious thoughts together to tell what is largely an autobiographical sketch of his self-titled "misadventures."

Reading the Hayden Chronicles is at times like being the 'fly on the wall' since Shelley paints such a descriptive and humorous account of his days. We watch Hayden dare to be daring, take a few stumbles along the way and find himself wholly as a young gay man.

He takes a look at the changes many incur while maturing after coming-out: "I had become the Gay American Princess. Boys like me were a dime a dozen. My individuality existed merely in the hand sewn initials in my 2Xist underwear... What could I do to save myself?"

However, Hayden's misadventures are more than about being gay, they are about life: "It is commonly known that the average human utilizes only

continued on page 13

Protesters Spawn continued

CR is showing the film September 28, 2p.m., State Museum of Pennsylvania Plaza, Harrisburg (enter on Forster St. side) as a "fund raiser" to support its youth programs. The critically need funds will be used to keep CR's services in operation.

In order to show support for central Pennsylvania's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth, Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania has organized "Day of Unity, a Peaceful and Proud Gathering" for September 28 from 1-2 p.m., one hour before the showing of the film and when religious protestors are expected.

The Unity event opens at 1 p.m. with the first official presentation in Harrisburg of the Original Rainbow Flag, fully restored to its original eight colors. Call 717-574-1755 for more information.

Readers are encourages to show their support by attending "Jim in Bold". Advance tickets are available at The Center (920-9534), MCC of the Spirit, Brownstone Lounge, 704 Strawberry Café, Stallions Entertainment Complex, Pink Lizard, and Neptune's Lounge.

Common Roads will also sponsor Benefit Shows throughout August and September. Check your favorite local hang-out for dates and times.

Dine Out for AIDS continued

In February, the Centers for Disease Control increased the estimated number of new US HIV infections for the first time in more than a decade. "Events like Dine-Out 2003 help to refocus attention upon the tough fight ahead as we work locally to care for those already infected and to stop new infections," Goropolous says.

For more information, please contact ACA's Lisa Eckhardt at the number above. For a list of participating restaurants, see page 13.

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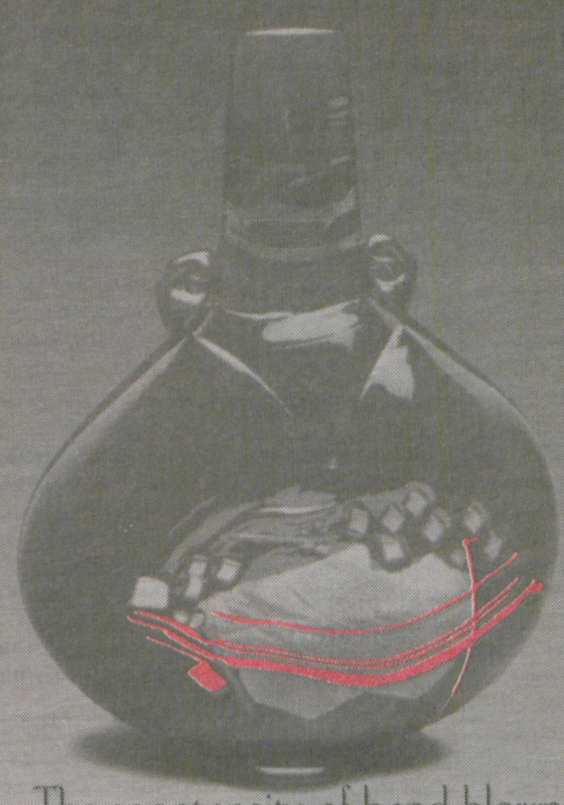

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Open Letter of Appreciation from the PrideFest 2003 Committee

Greetings,

While the stages and flags may be down and put away, our numbers this year are up and out!

PrideFest 2003 had vendors, sponsors, businesses, and volunteers that worked with us this year than ever in the event's history. And with 3,342 festival-goers, plus all the merchants, volunteers, and entertainers, we had a great event!

And through the generosity of thousands of individuals throughout central Pennsylvania, and the time and talent of the region's bar and drag community, we not only met, but exceeded our fundraising goal. We have since created the Cabaret Community Fund, through which money raised by this community will go to charities that serve the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender citizens of our region.

But beyond the hard numbers, this festival also made history as the first in the state to have a Commitment Ceremony. When we made the decision to add the ceremony seven months ago, we did so to make the festival socially relevant, by fusing the usual, annual festivities with the current wave in gay rights. This turned out to be quite an understatement when the commitment ceremony finally happened in the very same week that "gay marriage" crested into an international debate. While gay activism had been steadily shifting towards family rights issues, we certainly could never have predicted in January that the festival would be riding a tsunami of change in July.

In fact, Bride's Magazine, the nation's oldest and largest wedding magazine, is carrying a full-page article on same-sex weddings, entitled "Outward Bound" by David Toussaint, in its September/October issue.

And though sex may be biological and, as the Supreme Court recently realized, private, marriage is a social construct that demands recognition. Like a baptism or a funeral, it is a truly human ritual that marks a new phase in a lifetime, a shift in one's, or in the case of marriage, a couple's relation to the world that asks for acknowledgment. And it was our privilege that the festival provided 15 central Pennsylvania couples the opportunity to do just that with their own community.

So congratulations to our PrideFest 2003 couples and thanks to Rev. Eva O'Diam and MCC of the Spirit, Gay and Lesbian Switchboard and Alternative Central, and all the businesses, organizations, and individuals who helped make this year's festival a huge success. In "Celebrating Community" this year, we celebrated YOU! Until the next last Saturday of July.

Rey Lacaba, VP
Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania

Celebrating Community

PrideFest 2003
Central Pennsylvania

PrideFest 2003 is made possible by the generous contributions of Individuals, Organizations, and business throughout our Community.

Thank you

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Neptune's Lounge

Chumley's Pub and Players

Pink Lizard Nightclub

OMEGA WORLD TRAVEL

Region Joins Rainbow Flag Legacy

by Frank Pizzoli

Harrisburg and Central Pennsylvania joined the ranks of those cities and regions chosen to display portions of the Rainbow flag for its 25th anniversary this summer. A portion of the flag, originally unfurled in Key West, was then sent to local PrideFest officials for display July 26 at Harrisburg's Riverfront Park, site of the region's annual Pride event.

Known as Rainbow 25, activists and Absolut Vodka have organized a restoration of San Francisco artist Gilbert Baker's Rainbow flag to its original eight colors. In 1978, Baker hand-made a flag with eight colors which fast became the gay and lesbian community's symbol of pride and diversity. Ensuing circumstances, eventually reduced Baker's history-making flag to six colors.

His handiwork was first flown June 25,1978, for San Francisco's Gay Freedom Day Parade. Today his flag is recognized by the International Congress of Flag Makers. "When I raised the first rainbow in 1978, I instantly knew that my flag belonged to every lesbian and gay man. For Rainbow 25, I will restore the Rainbow flag to its original eight colors and bring it to cities worldwide as my gift to the community that embraced it," says Baker, also known as "The Betsy Ross of the GLBT Community".

A Vietnam-era veteran, Baker made San Francisco home after a 1972 honorable discharged. He sowed "all the flags for the 1984 Democratic Convention," held in his home city. As Baker explains, "I'm a huge patriot, and I love the American flag. After the 1976 Bicentennial, the whole country was awash in American flags. The American flag was really an inspiration for the Rainbow flag."

In 1994, Baker presented a one-mile long flag to New York City in honor of the Stonewall Riot's 25th anniversary. "Between 1994 and this year, I've missed only one New York City parade," Baker said from his Los Angeles home. This year, he'll be celebrating in San Francisco, the flag's birthplace. "New York City is where I matured as an artist. That year, 1994, when I saw people from all over the world latch onto the flag, I devoted myself to it and my community", he says quietly.

To launch the 25th anniversary celebration, Baker held a workshop in Key West that culminated in a June 15 unfurling of a one-and-quarter mile long Rainbow flag (that's 5,000 pounds of fabric, 25 miles of seams measuring 8,000 feet long by 16 feet wide, requiring 3,000 people to unfurl it), restored to its original eight colors. "That thing stretched from the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic Ocean!" Baker exclaimed. As part of the summer-long celebration, more than 100 sections of the Key West-made flag were sent to, among other cities, Harrisburg, New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Denver, and Seattle for use with their respective events.

Colorful History

Baker's original design used eight colors, each with its own stripe: fuchsia, red, orange, yellow, green, turquoise, blue, and purple. For him the colors represented, respectively: sex, life, healing, sunlight, nature, magic, serenity, and spirit.

After handing-dying a couple of flags, in 1979 Baker approached San Francisco's Paramount Flag Company to mass produce his "gay flag" for sale. "I was pink-haired, punk rocker in turquoise lame jeans and platform shoes - with an idea," Baker says laughing.

Unfortunately, he hand-dyed all the colors and "fuchsia" was not commercially available, making mass production impossible. Consequently, the flag was reduced to seven stripes.

A second event, within five months of the flag's debut, occurred when in November 1978 San Francisco's first openly gay supervisor, Harvey Milk, was assassinated. In the aftermath of Milk's death and wanting to show the gay community's strength and solidarity (and impeccable sense of decorator skills), the 1979 Pride Parade Committee used Baker's flag as an organizing symbol in that year's parade. So he could evenly divide the colors along the parade route - three colors on each side of the street, Baker eliminated the blue stripe. "I'm always redecorating something," he quips.

Ironically, it was Milk who nudged Baker into making his first flag. They agreed that the Nazi-identified "Pink Triangle" symbol that had been gaining popularity in the gay movement was a "questionable image". Thousands of gays and lesbians were put to death in German concentration camps for being gay. Baker recalls, "Harvey was keenly aware that the symbol we were using came from the Nazis. It wasn't our symbol." Thus, began Baker's motivation to create a gay and lesbian flag.

In 1989, the flag received nationwide attention after John Stout successfully sued his West Hollywood landlords when they prohibited him from flying the flag from his apartment balcony. Not one to shy away from the sparks of activism, Baker says, "That's the point of a flag. To be provocative".

Frank Pizzoli's (FPizzoli@aol.com) work appears nationally in Instinct and POZ. This article originally appeared in New York Blade News. He is active with Gay Men's Health Summits.

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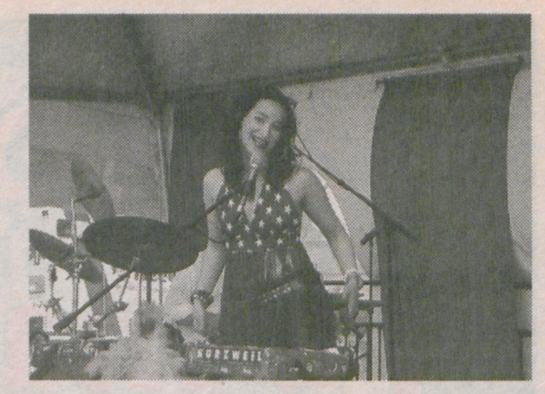

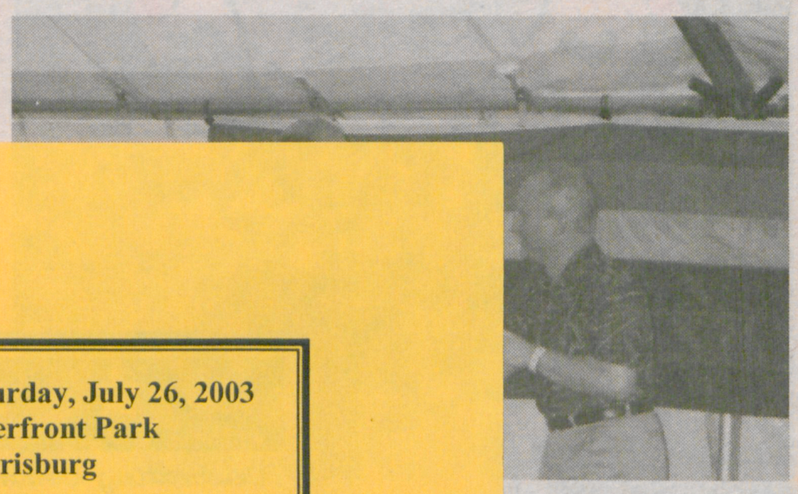

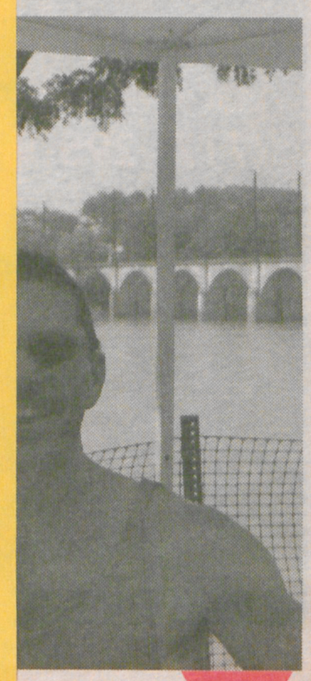

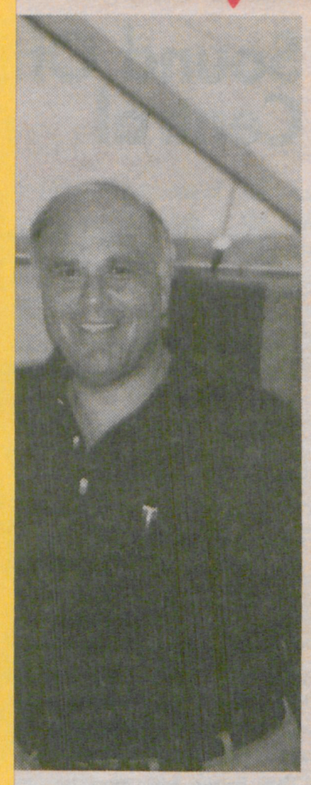

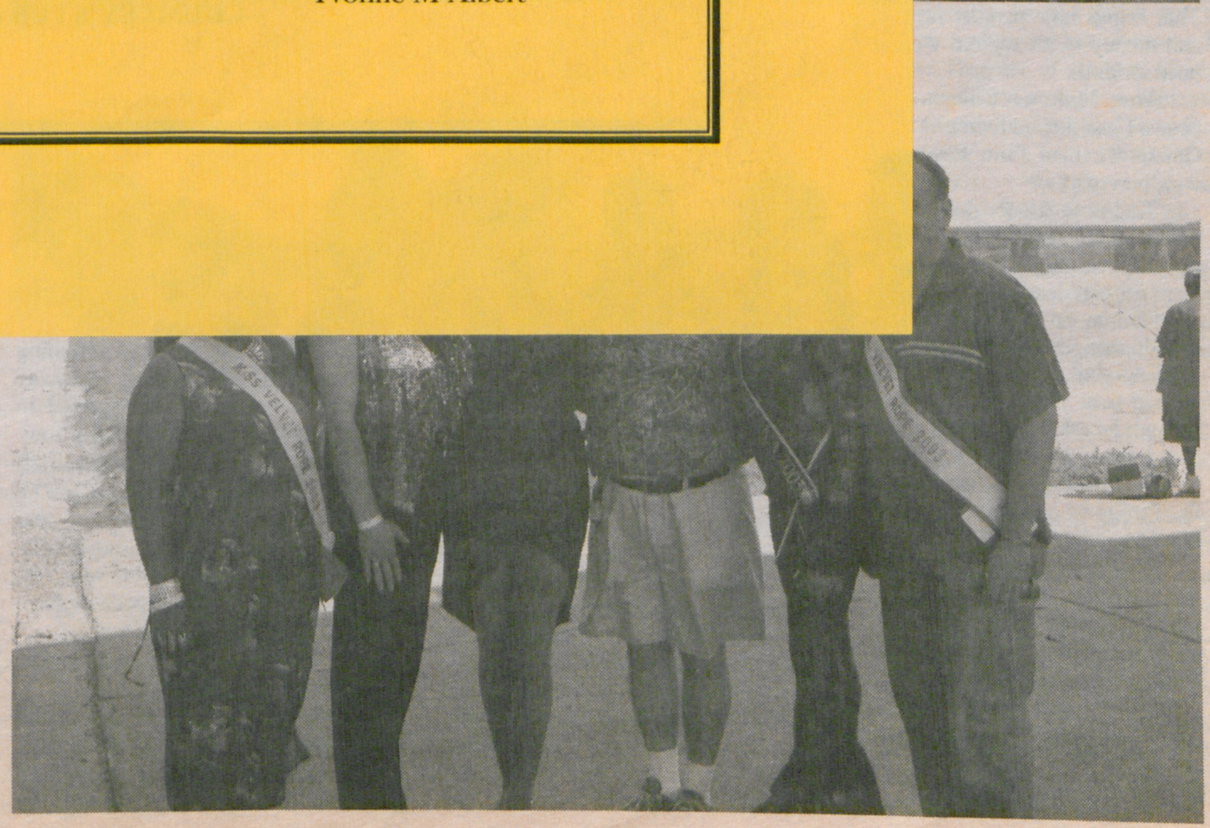

Celebrating Community

PrideFest 2003
Central Pennsylvania

Saturday, July 26, 2003
Riverfront Park
Harrisburg

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Open Letter of Appreciation from the PrideFest 2003 Committee

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Regior Flag L

by Frank Pizzoli

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PRIDE .03

Sponsorship ROUNDUP

Unlike large Pride festivals such as those in New York or San Francisco that can pull in big corporate sponsors, smaller festivals like ours have to rely more on the resources of the local community, and in the process, retains a distinctly local flavor year after year.

Some interesting numbers, to date:

Cost of PrideFest 2003: $31, 886

Buy-A-Rainbow Campaign Contributions
Participating locations:

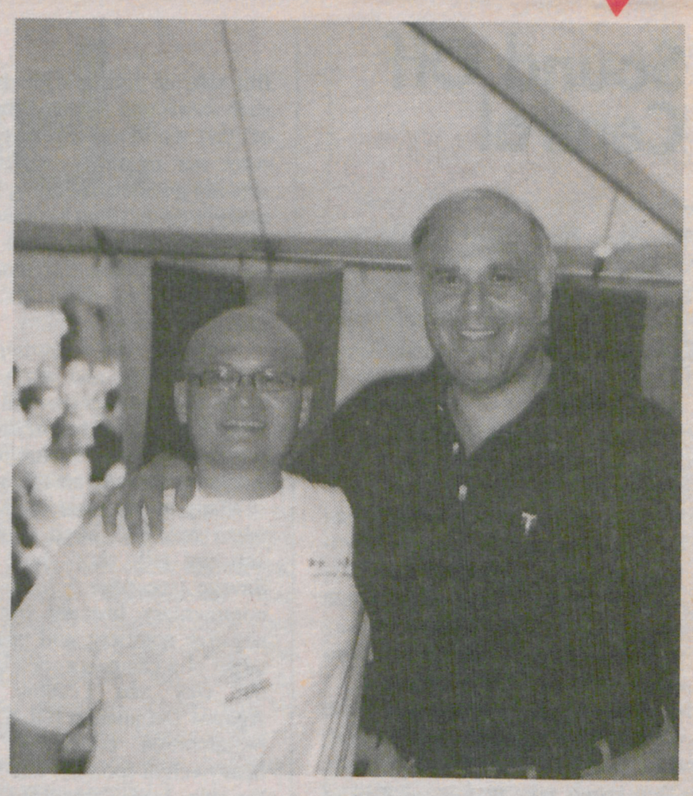
Altlands Ranch	$204
Brownstone Lounge	$323
Chumley's Pub & Players	$75
Common Roads	$132
MCC of the Spirit	$16
Neptune's Lounge	$300
Peachie's	$200
Pink Lizard	$406
Stallions Entertainment Complex	$69
704 Strawberry Cafe	$102
Tally-Ho	$255
The Velvet Rope	$775

Cabaret Community Fund Promoters:

Alexxus Kane	$1,525
Amethyst Diamond	$437
Danielle Steele	$567
Glenda	$325
Roxi Primadonna	$175
Starr Powers	$708
Visa D'Kline	$700

Miss Gay Pride Pageant Proceeds:

Brownstone Lounge	$380
Pink Lizard	$607



FAB Stages continued

are available on the website.

Catered Feast

Back by popular demand, Accomac Catering will be preparing and serving an assortment of elegant hors d'oeuvres. Many who attended last year gave rave reviews for the food, so we decided to bring them back again. Additional hors d'oeuvres will be offered from beautifully designed displays including an assortment especially selected for our Vegan and Vegetarian guests. The hors d'oeuvres are prepared fresh on-site, and the assortment includes a variety of 24 creations. If you leave hungry it will be your own fault.

A FAB First

This year for the first time there will be a FAB AfterParty at the Velvet Rope, 36 West 11th Avenue, York. Suzanne will attend to mix and mingle with guests. Hold on to your FAB ticket and show it at the door for free admission. This is a great opportunity for you Harrisburg folks to get out of Harrisburg and try something different. In addition to the opportunity to meet Suzanne there will be additional entertainment sponsored by the bar. The Velvet Rope is donating the door proceeds to FAB.

Tickets are $65 per person for the main event and $125 per person for the main event the VIP Reception with Suzanne Westenhoefer. Reservations will be coordinated through FAB hosts or call 1-717-236-5040 to make reservations. For more information go to: *www.fab-pa.org*

FAB 2003 Beneficiaries

All of the money raised by FAB since 1999 has gone to The Equity for Gays and Lesbians Partnership (EGAL) fund. EGAL is a special project of The Greater Harrisburg Foundation. EGAL's goal is to grant funds to local charitable organizations serving the LGBT community.

In 2003 EGAL provided funding to the following agencies:

Common Roads ($15,000) – These funds are for operating expenses for the youth center and life skills programming and outreach to serve GLBT youth.

EGAL Partnership ($12,500) – These funds will be in placed in the EGAL Endowment Fund.

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg ($5,000) – These funds are for operating expenses, outreach and the development of volunteer training materials.

Institute for Cultural Partnerships: ($5,000) – These funds are for outreach to create a contact resource directory regarding the needs and issues of the minority GLBT community.

Lancaster Theological Seminary ($2,500 matching grant) – These funds will support a week-long event entitled, "Growing from Youth to Maturity: The GLBT Journey into Acceptance and Love."

Statewide PA Rights Coalition SPARC ($15,000) – The funds will expand on the grant given in 2001 to once again provide day long conferences aimed at educating and outreach to non-GLBT minority persons about issues within the GLBT minority community.

Woman's Circle ($2,120) – These funds will support the second Women's Circle retreat.

YWCA of Lancaster ($7,468) – These funds are to develop and implement a comprehensive anti-bias curriculum for youth ages 10-12, grades 4 & 5 for schools and youth groups within Lancaster County.

York Unity March Heals Scars

By Ron Melusky

On August 14, the city gathers in taking a stand for unity for its 3rd Annual Unity March for Youth.

York's Unity March began in 2000 as a response to the still-stinging scars left by the 1969 race riots.

During those riots 30 years ago, police officer Henry Schaad and twenty-seven year-old Lille Belle Allen were shot and killed in separate incidents. The purpose of the march is to take a lesson from Pennsylvania's past and use those lessons to create a better future.

To say that the killings left an emotional stain on the city would be an understatement. Although the killings took place three decades ago their effects still linger in front page news: planned and thwarted Klu Klux Klan rallies, the trial of former York mayor Charlie Robinson for his alleged role in the Allen killing, the hunt for and capture of Officer Schaad's killers.

The Unity March is held in the spirit of healing a wounded community and begins at 10 a.m. in Penn Park. The parade will pass by the areas where Schaad and Allen were killed, and ends in Farquhar Park.

The York City Human Relations Committee, which organizes the event, encourages participants to bring signs and banners.

Now more than ever it is crucial for LGBT individuals to make themselves known as a vibrant part of the community-at-large.

The country is slowly beginning to realize that we are just like everyone else—and therefore are entitled to the same rights as everybody else. So take the time to march for unity in York, and demonstrate that we are all one people.

Sound Off Central

– Compliment or Complain

Sound Off Central is place for readers to anonymously share their thoughts on any topic – gay, lesbian, bisexual, straight, community strengths, community weaknesses, economic development issues, or civil rights.

You have a compliment or a complaint? Send it to soundoffAC@aol.com.

"Harrisburg City is a pedestrian unfriendly place, especially downtown and in some neighborhoods. If we had a public program to teach them how to "smile" and say "hello", maybe we could teach them some driving manners too?"

"I'm all for more destination points, like a critical mass of museums, being developed in Harrisburg. That brings new people, new ideas and money to the region. We sorely need all three."

"Wow, Midtown Cinema is cool beans. I just moved here and found a Gay & Lesbian Film Festival and your newspaper."

"Kudos to the Patriot News for publishing the good, the bad, and the ugly aspects of gay life - and on the front page to beat!'

"Shame on those gay men and pseudo straight men who go the area YMCAs, but don't seem to be able to read that "inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated". What a shame they have to put those signs up!"

"The Pink Lizard is awesome. I'm like family when I go there. I always feel welcome!"

"Ever notice how the gay male and lesbian communities often remain separate? Why is this? Don't we have enough enemies out there without alienating each other?"

"Nobody wants to die uneducated," said a matronly, straight patron of recent Gay & Lesbian Film Festival after seeing a film.

Loving the Gay Wallet continued

flip side of living with and using such newfound power. While many of the world's biggest producers want our money, how should we actually go about spending it? It certainly wouldn't hurt to reward those businesses who have taken a chance on us. But within this truth an old maxim applies: With great power comes great responsibility.

No matter who is courting our dollars, the slings and arrows of our harshest societal critics will continue to fly. This is a sad fact of life. Still, in recent months our buying power has won us some truly notable victories.

Many in our ranks were shocked when MSNBC hired controversial anti-gay talk show host Michael Savage (see page 5). His virulent commentary brought him instant negative notoriety, and made him a target of a campaign spearheaded by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD). The organization contacted Savage's heavyweight sponsors like Procter & Gamble, Dell Computer Corp., and Sharper Image, asking them to reconsider support of his show.

In short order, GLAAD convinced every national sponsor to pull their advertising. When Orkin Pest Control was informed that they were still advertising after others had left, they promptly yanked their ads and issued an apologetic e-mail distancing themselves from Savage's views.

Now, with Savage recently being let go by MSNBC, in a weirdly surprising twist, and one far more telling, he's suing websites that called upon his advertisers to leave him, claiming that they infringed upon his freedom of speech and interfered with his livelihood. That certainly adds more than just a little emphasis to gay buying power, and indicates that maybe; just maybe; the LGBT community has arrived in the big time.

Remember - It's your money. Use it wisely. Never doubt that someone somewhere is watching closely where it goes and what it supports.

Ted S. Martin is *Co-Chair, Business Association of Gays and Lesbians BAGALpa@aol.com*

Best Tressed:

IS YOUR HAIR NATURALLY GAY?

by Marc Acito

I didn't know I had curly hair until I was 14. It may sound strange to be unaware of something so elemental about yourself; it's like not noticing you were circumcised or had a club foot. But back in 1980, the New Jersey standard was Deney Terrio of *Dance Fever,* so I regularly tortured my hair into submission by setting the blow dryer to "G-force." All that changed on a humid spring break in Florida where my hair just curled up and dried.

The discovery that I was actually a mop top came as a complete revelation to me. Shortly thereafter I also realized I was gay. Coincidence? I think not. I traded in my blow dryer for blow jobs, and I've been kinky ever since.

Hair is an integral part of our identity. If you don't think so, let us recall the story of Rosie's Locks and the Three Hair-Dos. When *The Rosie O'Donnell Show* first aired, it was obvious the network brass wanted to fem our girl up; her hair was so frosted and fussy she looked like Kathie Lee Gifford retaining water. With the show's runaway success, however, she returned to her Really Rosie color and a low-maintenance (but still long-haired) bob. Then, of course, there was The Coming Out Haircut, the one that looked like she leapt out of the chair before the stylist was finished. Suddenly the Queen of Nice had become a Royal Butch.

It could have been worse. She could have worn a mullet.

Now in defense of this much despised style, back in its heyday (when it was poofy or spiky on top), being a member of the Mulletia meant you were hip, cool and, in all likelihood, queer. I myself can be seen wearing one for all eternity in my 1984 high school yearbook, along with a tie narrower than Rick Santorum's mind. I look like the secret love child of Daryl Hall and John Oates.

But gradually mullets evolved into the "business in front, party in back" style favored by people who spend weekends working on their Harleys before piling the kids in the pick-up to go tractor-shopping at the county fair. I'm speaking, of course, of rednecks and lesbians.

How these two Mutual Aggravation Societies came to share a hairdo I'll never know, but reminding your lesbian sisters of this fact might actually bring an end to this shear madness. (Another is to remind them that the abbreviation for "short on top, long in back" is *shlong*.)

What I find even more bewildering is that rednecks sport the haircut gays wore twenty years ago while gays have somehow ended up with a style we used to associate with rednecks: the buzz-cut. You walk into any gay bar on a Saturday and it looks like an Army recruiting office. Compared to us, straight guys are starting to look nelly.

Stylists call the buzz-cut the "Two by Four" (number two clippers on top, number four on the sides) and it's equally popular with lesbians and straight guys, which means heterosexual women are the only people left on the planet who exhibit creativity with their hair.

(Except, of course, yours truly. Over the years, I've experimented with more hairdos and don'ts than Madonna. In fact, to view Marc's Museum of Manes, please visit my website www.MarcAcito.com and cast a vote for your favorite coif by clicking on "Vote for Marc's Hair.")

I'm certain that some of you readers secretly long to use your heads as a venue for self-expression. For instance, those of you who do that thing where you mold your hair up into a ridge (aka the "fauxhawk"). Nice try, but to me it just looks like you're a pointy-headed newborn after it's squeezed through the birth canal.

And then there are those of you with the "Shove," that hedge along your forehead that makes grown men look like members of the Lollipop Guild. On a recent episode of *Queer as Folk*, Ben's shove was standing up so straight he must have taken Rogaine and Viagra at the same time.

Y'know, I can't help but feel there's a certain internal homophobia underlying this insistence on getting one's hair to quite literally stand up "straight." Personally, I yearn for the days when fey Oscar Wilde types twirled their shoulder-length curls while reciting poetry in crushed velvet knickers.

So as a gay role model, once again I'm leading the vanguard by literally letting my hair down. I'm currently enjoying the floppy freedom of an Ashton Kutcher shag. At my age, I figure I might as well have fun with my follicles they last. Like they say, "Hair today, gone tomorrow."

And that, my friends, is The Gospel According to Marc.

Marc Acito's hairdos and don'ts can be seen at www.MarcAcito.com.

2004 Film Festival Volunteers Sought

The 2004 Gay & Lesbian Film Festival is looking for a few good women and men.

"We need volunteers to help select films, solicit for advertising sponsorship, participate in fundraising, put up posters, distribute flyers, work the Internet chat rooms," says festival organizer Frank Pizzoli. Held at Harrisburg's Midtown Cinema, a three-screen independent film house, the event drew filmgoers this year from Baltimore, New York City, Lancaster, York, Harrisburg, and many other points north and south.

The annual festival functions as a committee of the Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg. "We need people who will keep their commitment to help," says Switchboard chairman Charlie Smith.

Coverage for this year's festival was widespread. "We had excellent media coverage in the region, including The Patriot News, three stories in York Daily Record, two stories in the Phila. Gay News," Pizzoli said.

Channel 21 and Channel 15 both gave extensive coverage to the festival against the backdrop of announcements the day the event opened by President George W. Bush and the Catholic Church against same-sex marriage.

Volunteers who want to get involved are asked to email Pizzoli at PosOps@aol.com.

Dine Out for AIDS Sept. 24

Participating Restaurants

Lancaster
Alois's at Bube's Bewery – 102 N. Market St. Mt. Joy * 653-2056
Belvedere Inn – 402 N. Queen St., Lancaster * 394-2422
Carr's Restaurant – 50 W. Grant St., Lancaster * 299-7090
D&S Brasserei – 1679 Lincoln Highway East, Lancaster * 299-1694
Doc Holiday's Steakhouse – 931 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster * 397-3811
The Elizabethtown Hotel, Eatery & Pub – 28 S. Market St., Elizabethtown * 397-6142
Gibraltar – 931 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster * 397-2790
Historic Revere Tavern – 3063 Lincoln Highway, Paradise * 687-8601
Isaac's Restaurant & Deli
245 Centerville Road, Lancaster * 393.1199
25 N. Queen St., Lancaster * 394-5544
Cloister Shopping Center, Ephrata * 733-7777
1559 Manheim Pike, Lancaster * 560-7774
565 Greenfield Road, Lancaster * 393-6067
4 Trolley Run Road, Lititz * 625-1811
Rt. 741 East, Strasburg * 687-7699
Molly Pub – 253 E. Chestnut St., Lancaster * 396-0225
Mulberry Park Café – 300 West James St., Lancaster * 509-1069
Olde Greenfield Inn – 595 Greenfield Rd., Lancaster * 393-**0668**
Prudhomme's Lost Cajun Kitchen – Lancaster Ave./Cherry St., Columbia * 684-1706
Symposium – 125 S. Centerville Rd., Lancaster * 391-7656
Stockyard Inn – 1147 Lititz Pike, Lancaster * 394-7975
Walnut Street Grille at the **Brewery** – 302 N. Plum St., Lancaster * 391-6258
Dauphin/Cumberland Area
Appalachian Brewing Company – 50 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg * 221-1080
California Café – 38 W. Pomfret St., Carlisle * 249-2028
Doc Holiday's Steakhouse – 469 Eisenhower Blvd., Harrisburg * 564-4448
Doc Holiday's Steakhouse – Limekin Road, New Cumberland * 920-3627Empire Restaurant & Deli – 149 N. Hanover St., Carlisle * 258-4888
Glass Lounge – 4745 N. Front St., Harrisburg * 255-9919
Isaac's Restaurant & Deli1201 W. Chocolate Ave. Hummelstown * 533-9665
4408 Oakhurst Blvd., Harrisburg * 541-1111
4940 Ritter Road, Mechanicsburg * 766-1111
6520 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg * 795-1925
1200 W. Market Street, Lemoyne * 731-9545
Mangia Qui Ristorante – 272 North St., Harrisburg * 233-7358
Pierre's Café – 115 Old York Road, New Cumberland * 774-0132
York area
Bel Paese – 1201 Memory Lane, York * 840-4040
Blue Moon Café – 361 E. Market St, York * 854-6664
Coombs Tavern – 475 Pennsylvania Ave., York * 854-8146
Doc Holiday's Steakhouse – 1177 Carlisle St., Hanover * 633-3627
Isaac's Restaurant & Deli
2960 Whiteford Rd., York * 751-0515
235 Pauline Drive, York * 747-5564
2150 White St., York * 854-2292
Richard's – 1030 N. George St., York * 846-5868
Wonderful Garden Chinese **Restaurant** – 2044 Springwood Rd., York * 848-6020
For the current list call 1-800-867-1550Benefits AIDS Community Alliance, Caring Together - York ,and the Greater Harrisburg AIDS Fund.

704 STRAWBERRY

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Harrisburg, PA
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Call us for September and October Events

To subscribe to Alternative Central
CALL 717.234.0328

Say out loud: "I'm homosexual".

by Dan Miller

As avid gardeners, a friend and I are reading a book that helps us learn the Latin names of plants. While discussing plant names, we enthusiastically stated, "I just love words".

In the spirit of loving words, I suggest we start loving the word "homosexual".

For some reason, this great word has never been embraced by the community it describes. It's now time to let homosexual out of the closet. On the count of three, please state out loud, "I am homosexual". Doesn't that feel great?

Homosexual is a good word because it's clear, concise and descriptively accurate.

It means simply same-sex. As a homosexual, my sexual orientation is towards people of my sex. In fact, attraction to others of the same sex is the one, and possibly only thing, I have in common with all other homosexuals.

The word homosexual is what unites all of us who in fact are same-sex oriented. This is the word, which in my view, is best used to describe what we are, and defines our entire movement for equal rights.

Unfortunately this word is hardly ever used. How many of us are members of the HRC – Homosexual Rights Campaign or the National Homosexual Task Force? Can you even think of one major organization that uses the word homosexual in its name? Usually we call ourselves gay or lesbian. Some people embrace the word queer or any variety of other colorful, but, to me, vague names. Maybe vague or covert names did play an important role in getting where we are today, but now it's okay, even important, to embrace who we truly are – homosexuals.

There are several reasons I don't care for the terms gay and lesbian, but the overriding number one reason is because it is divisive. Homosexual unites everyone in one fell swoop, while gay and lesbian immediately divides us into competing groups of men and women. Sexual orientation can be confusing enough, why add in the enormity of male and female gender roles within society? As a male homosexual, I want to feel a part of the entire group, not segregated into a subgroup. If I refer to myself as "gay" this seems to suggest segregation. For this reason, I no longer refer to myself as gay, but instead as homosexual.

The other major reason the word gay doesn't seem to fit me, is because it's not clear what it actually means. The term gay generally refers to a male homosexual; however, it's relatively vague and can mean 100 different things to 100 different people. Gay often seems to invoke the term "lifestyle". An individual's lifestyle is personal and very subjective. While I may know what I mean when I refer to myself as gay, I'm not certain that others perceive my same meaning. As a result it seems best for me to avoid the word gay entirely.

Why hasn't the word homosexual been embraced by those it so clearly describes? I don't know. When I first came out someone told me the term "homosexual" was "too clinical". What the heck does that mean? For some reason, the word bisexual isn't too clinical to describe bisexuals. There may be other vague words bisexuals use to refer to their orientation, but none readily come to mind.

My friend "loves words", while I, in turn, especially love one word – homosexual.

I love it because it is clear and direct. Using the term homosexual defines the debate and limits it to one specific item – sexual orientation. Many of the other terms are vague and have the tendency to evoke lifestyles. Lifestyles vary greatly from person to person, are easily attacked by the opposition and in general have nothing to do with sexual orientation. It would be impossible to define the term "gay lifestyle" as a meaning that would have any relevance to our diverse community. As such I don't believe there is a "gay lifestyle".

I love the word homosexual because it is inclusive and unites me with all other homosexuals. Finally, I love the word homosexual because it is liberating. I can honestly and proudly say who I am without confusion or innuendo, and that makes me feel proud.

Fred Shelley continued

about 15 to 20 percent of their brain once they are an adult. Is the same true of our heart? No matter how much we learn about relationships, heartbreak, love, infatuation, etc., can we ever reach capacity enough to be able to discern bad from good and be able to act upon it?"

But let's get back to one of our first questions, "does anyone ever write this stuff down." I asked Shelley what gives him the confidence to write the columns and publish this book. "I came to a point in my life where I started to listen to the people who were telling there was a need for a book like this. Plus, I am not usually a person who will complain and then not do something," he said.

We can't be certain how much complaining he has done, but we can be certain he has written a lot as Six Degrees of Hayden Shelley is in its fourth year of publication. The column is published in various newspapers in Philadelphia (Shelley's home), Virginia, Delaware, and North Carolina to name a few locations.

I must recommend "A Boy Less Ordinary" by Fred Shelley for your next book buy. It is an entertaining read; one that provides a high chance of the reader saying to themselves, "That was just like when ..." like when they too shook their head and thought someone should "write that down."

Shelley donates a portion of the proceeds from book sales to The Attic, a non-profit, youth-run community center for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth ranging in age from 12 to 23. For those of you who missed him at Pride Fest and would like more information on the weekly column or to purchase the book, visit www.haydenism.com.

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, Inc.

AskGLSH.org

Hours: M-F 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

717.234.0328

Get Connected to your Community

Community Calendar

Let everyone know your events! AC publishes information on events free of charge. Please have your events posted on the form provided at *info@askglsh.org* by the 6th of the month prior to the publication of the next issue. AC is published every other month beginning in January.

Events provided courtesy of the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg.

September 02-07
Susquehanna Club - Camping - Assateague National Seashore.

On the Maryland Shore - Assateague Island, a windswept barrier island that offers many opportunities including: ocean swimming, camping, bayside canoeing, crabbing. Wild horses roam beach to bay habitats. Beach camping and wild ponies! Nearby is the southern end of the Ocean City boardwalk. Cold shower facilities. Additional 7-day vehicle permit - $10 - paid at check-in. Canoeing will be organized during the trip. Trip cost varies depend length of stay.

September 06
Vision of Hope MCC - Benefit Dinner and Concert

A Benefit Dinner and Concert will be held at Vision of Hope MCC in Mountville, PA on Saturday, September 6. Please mark your calendar and invite your friends. This benefit is for the church's building fund, "Pointing Towards the Future to Rock the World." The Spaghetti Dinner (cooked by Pastor Debbie Coggin) starts at 5:30 p.m. and will cost $5. A silent auction, which includes a variety of items and services, will also take place. The Concert of local Christian music, consisting of MCC choirs, individuals and others, begins at 7 p.m. A "love offering" will be collected at the Concert. For more information, please contact the church office at 717-285-9070 or Email:visionofhopemcc@aol.com.

September 08
Womyn's Chorus Open Rehearsal - Meet us and sing with us.

Monday, September 8, 7 pm Open Rehearsal of the Central Pa Womyn's Chorus. Meet us, sing with us, and find out how much fun Monday nights can be! Temple Beth Shalom, 913 Allendale Rd., Mechanicsburg. For more info, call 717-234-4825, or email info@cpwchorus.org, or see the chorus web site at www.cpwchorus.org.

September 10
The Velvet Rope - Celebrity Female Impersonator, Christopher Peterson

will be performing live as Lucille Ball, Patsy Cline, Shirley MacClaine, Liza Minnelli, and Judy Garland. Doors open at 8 p.m. Show starts at 9:30 p.m. Tickets are $15 for reserved and $10 for general admission.

September 13
Pennsmen Barnight Social

-The Neptune Lounge, 268 North Street, Harrisburg, PA. Join The Pennsmen at our monthly social at Neptune's. Meet our club members and see what we're all about. Club bartenders, bootblack, and raffle. 10 p.m. No Cover. Contact Steve James at 717.232.3785. Email: jesjames71@comcast.net, Website: www.pennsmen.org

September 14
Pink Lizard's 3rd Annual Golf Tournament

- Silver Spring Golf Course, 136 Sample Bridge Rd., Mechanicburg, Pa. Benefits Susan G. Komen breast cancer foundation. This event is open to men and women. Registration deadline is September 8. $65.00pp includes golf, cart, dinner, and beverages. Pick up registrations forms at the Pink Lizard or Silver Spring Golf Course. For further details, contact Marcia at the Pink Lizard at 717.939.1123 or the Silver Spring Golf Course. Email: pinklizard891.aol.com.

15th Annual Harrisburg Gallery Walk

Explore the Art & Soul of the City on Sunday, Sept. 14 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 26 select sites showcasing the regions wonderful diversity of art and artists. Information at 717-236-1432.

The Pennsmen, Inc monthly meeting

The Pennsmen meet at 5 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month at the 704 Strawberry for our general membership meetings. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. 704 N. Third Street, Harirsburg. Contact Steve James at (717) 232-3785. Email:jesjames71@comcast.net. Website: www.pennsmen.org.

September 19
Pink Lizard - Evening of illusion!

Come out to the Pink Lizard for a night of female illusion. Our regular cast members of Ingenue, Ito, Starr Powers, Poison, and Biscuit and "special" out of town guests will dazzle you with their performances. Show starts at 10 p.m. $5. Call Marcia at 717.939.1123 for reservations! Email:pinklizard891@aol.com.

September 19-21
Susquehanna Club - Camping Trip - Women's Weekend, Mauch Chunk Lake Park - Jim Thorpe, PA.

The Lehigh River carves through a steep-walled canyon. The deep gorge, thick vegetation, rock outcroppings, and many waterfalls characterize the entire park. It is one of the most scenic rivers in America and features white-water rafting. Visitors who like adventure will also love hiking or mountain biking (rentals) on more than 25 miles of abandoned railroad grade that follow the river. Fall color should begin at this time. We are planning a half-day white-water rafting trip on Saturday. The cost is $50/person. The rafts hold six people each, so if we have less than six rafting, or don't have an exact multiple of six, any "extra" people will be assigned to a raft with others who are not in our group. For more information, visit www.jtraft.com. If you would like to go on the white-water rafting trip, please send your camping registration form with check in by September 2, 2003. Add $20 to the camping fee as a deposit (non-refundable) for white-water rafting. Members $20 Non-Members $25. Beth Shupp-George
717-262-4328.
Email: women@susq.org,
Website: www.susq.org

September 20
The Velvet Rope - The Alexxus Kane Drag Show

and Chuck's Birthday Party featuring Sabrina White, Miss Gay America 2002. Doors open at 8 p.m. Show time: 10 p.m. – 12 midnight. Dancing and DJ before and after the show. $5 Cover.

September 24
South Central Pennsylvania Dine Out - caring a la carte

Look for sign at area restaurants throughout Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster and Lebanon counties. For more information on locations and how to participate please contact AIDS Community Alliance at 800.867.1550

September 28
JIM IN BOLD - Film documentary exclusive showing in Harrisburg

The State Museum of Pennsylvania - 300 N. Third St, Harrisburg, 2 p.m. The Common Roads youth group is honored to host the exclusive area showing of the documentary, JIM IN BOLD. The film examines the many complicated issues facing gay and lesbian teens. Proceeds from the showing will benefit Common Roads. Tickets: $10. 717.920.9534. Email: info@commonroads.org, Website: www.commonroads.org.

October 1-5
The Velvet Rope's
- 3rd Year Anniversary Celebration

October 2
The Velvet Rope - Celebrity Female Impersonator, Randy Roberts

from Key West Florida will be performing live. Doors open at 8 p.m. Show starts at 9:30 p.m. Tickets are $15 for reserved and $10 for general admission.

October 17
Pink Lizard - Evening of illusion

– Come out and watch your favorite local drag queens(Starr Powers, Ingenue, Ito, Biscuit, and Poison) along with SABRINA WHITE Miss Gay America 2002. They will dazzle you with their performances. Show starts at 10 p.m. $5 Cover. Call Marcia at 717.939.1123 for reservations!!! Email: pinklizard891@aol.com

October 17-19
Susquehanna Club - Camping - Prince Gallitzin, Horseshoe Curve/Near Altoona, PA.

Prince Gallitzin. Showers available at neighboring campground for a fee. Altoona is an industrial city on the eastern slopes of the Allegheny Mountains. Local attractions include: Horseshoe Curve - Built in 1854 in the side of a mountain, this is one of the busiest active freight and passenger rail lines today; has as scenic view, exhibits and museum; Penn's Cave - America's only all-water cavern and wildlife park features limestone caverns, an underground boat ride, stalactites and stalagmites and flowstone; Fort Roberdeau Historic Site - Visit a reconstructed fort dating back to 1778 set in a 45-acre park featuring tours, exhibits, a picnic area, nature trails and a museum. Members $25 Non-Members $30. Email: info@susq.org. Website: www.susq.org

October 18
The Velvet Rope - The Alexxus Kane Drag Show

featuring Ingenue and Truly Fabu. Doors open at 8 p.m. and the show is from 10 p.m. – 12 midnight. Dancing and DJ before and after the show. $5 Cover

October 31
Pink Lizard - Hugh Halloween Costume Party.

Come out to the Pink Lizard for a hugh Halloween Party. Doors open at 7 p.m., contest is at 11:30 p.m. for over all best costume. 1st place $100.00, 2nd place $50.00 BE CREATIVE!!!! $3 Cover. Lots of giveaways and drink specials.

The Velvet Rope Halloween Party.

Doors open at 8 p.m. Costume contest at 12midnight. Prizes awarded for Most Original, Scariest, and Most Beautiful. Free munchies/buffet. $7 Cover.

Looking Ahead

November 7
The Velvet Rope - Miss York County Illusion Pageant at 9 p.m.; $5 Cover

November 15
The Velvet Rope - The Alexxus Kane Drag Show featuring Shae Shae LaReese and Marissa Devine; 10 p.m. $5 Cover

November 21-23
Susquehanna Club - Camping - Harper's Ferry, WV

Located at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers in the states of West Virginia, Virginia, and Maryland; throughout its history, Harpers Ferry has been the backdrop for remarkable and unparalleled events. Here, in one setting, several themes in the American story converge: Native Americans, industry and transportation, African-Americans, John Brown, the Civil War, and the natural environment. Stay in rustic treehouse cabins with wood stoves. Members $50, Non-Members $55. Email: info@susq.org. Website: www.susq.org.

November 22
8th Annual FAB Event w/Comedian Suzanne Westenhoefer - Strand Capitol, York

The 8th annual FAB event will be held on November 22, 2003 and will feature special entertainment by Suzanne Westenhoefer. The event will be held at the newly renovated Strand Capitol Theater in York and will be catered by Accomac Catering. Proceeds benefit the g/l/b/t/organizations serving the Central Pennsylvania community. $65-$125. Contact the Greater Harrisburg Foundation at 717-236-5040, or Email: lstone@campbetty.com. Website: www.fab-pa.org

December 3
The Velvet Rope - Celebrity Female Impersonator, Christopher Peterson "Christmas Show."

Show starts at 9:30 p.m. $15 Reserved, $10 General Admission

December 13
The Velvet Rope - The Alexxus Kane Drag Show

featuring Erica Skyy; 10 p.m. $5 Cover

* *

For the latest information on local activities and events, please visit our website at: www.AskGLSH.org.

Event and activities are published free by Alternative Central. Please send information to the Switchboard by 6th of each month. If received later than 6th of each month, no gaurentee it will appear in next available issue. Call 717.234.0328 or email: info@AskGLSH.org.

To post your event online to the events calendar, please complete and submit the following link: www.askglsh.org/contact/event.htm.

Alternative Central and Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg are not responsible for changes in dates, times, prices, cancellations, or typographical errors by venues providing information.

Social Organizations

Business Association for Gay and Lesbian (BAGAL)
Social/Business Professionals. Meets every other month.
PO Box 135
Harrisburg, PA 17108 Phone: 717.612.8445. Email: BAGAL-PA@aol.com.

Common Roads - Youth group. Ages 14-24. Social/Information/Support. Social activities every Friday eve at 7:00 P.M. 1300A North 3rd St, Harrisburg. Email: info@commonroads.org. Website: www.commonroads.org. Voice: 717.920.9534.

Gay & Lesbian Organization of Reading & Allentown - PO Box 1952, Allentown, PA 18105, non-profit social group for adult men & women, singles & couples. 1 or 2 activities each month including potlucks, bowling, movie nights, hikes, dinners, etc. Email: glorain-pa@aol.com.

Harrisburg Gay Men's and Women's Volleyball -
Social/Recreation. Every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m., Baughman United Methodist Church, New Cumberland Cost: $2.50, Contact: Jim at 233.3172.

Harrisburg Women's Rugby Club - Looking for players for summer and fall league. No experience necessary. Email: rugby-dog34@aol.com.

Lambda Car Club -
Social/Recreation. Meets monthly. Email: Buickbum@aol.com Voice: Contact John Ball at 717.238.9766.

continued on page 16

Drop Everything for the 2003-2004 Season

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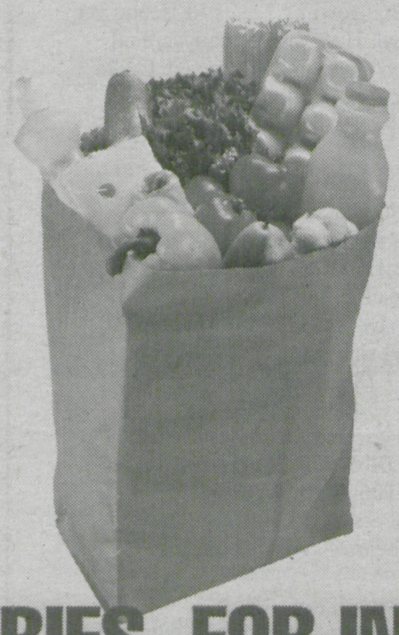

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If you or someone you know needs help paying for HIV drugs, call 1.800.662.6080.
Call today to find out who qualifies. The call is confidential and free.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA • EDWARD G. RENDELL, GOVERNOR

on such a long waiting list. Many advocacy groups, such as the Philadelphia Unemployment Project, have been calling for increased state funding for adultBasic.

A Pennsylvania-based charter bus company last month settled a discrimination complaint filed against it by members of ACT UP, Philadelphia Chapter. AIDS activists filed the complaint with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission after a Krapf bus company driver stopped the vehicle en route to a legislative hearing in Harrisburg. He had learned the passengers were AIDS activists and allegedly refused to complete the trip because he "didn't want to catch anything."

Although the driver eventually resumed the trip, his delay caused activists to miss the hearing at which they planned to speak. Krapf agreed to pay an undisclosed amount to each of the 10 passengers on the bus, to retrain its staff, and to post nondiscrimination policies in each of its buses.

"This complaint gave the bus company a chance to look at what this driver did and say, 'That's not us.' And that's what they've done," said Ronda Goldfein, executive director of the AIDS Law Project, which filed the complaint on behalf of the ACT UP members.

Gay Student Settles Suit over Discipline

``Public schools aren't above the Constitution and they can't get away with silencing gay students and violating their rights," noted Arkansas ACLU official Rita Sklar. Hoping other school districts nationwide will learn from the experience, she was commenting a 14-year-old high school student who was disciplined for speaking out loud about being gay.

With help from the ACLU last April, Thomas McLaughlin, of Jacksonville, settled his suit with Pulaski County Special School District by agreeing to a $25,000 settlement and an apology from the school. Officials also will clear his disciplinary record.

``I'm really glad that this is all over,'' McLaughlin said at the time of the settlement.

"No more students should have to go through what I did." In a statement issued through his secretary, Pulaski Superintendent Don Henderson said the school district was satisfied with the settlement.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed the lawsuit in April, alleging teachers disciplined McLaughlin for his remarks as well as preached to him from the Bible and told his parents that he was gay.

Alternative Central reported in its last issue on a central Pennsylvania gay student, who after being discovered by a law enforcement officer with another teenager – they were 18 and 19 at the time – was preached to from the bible. In that case, the police official proceeded to inform the young man's family that he was gay. The young man committed suicide within hours of the disclosure.

According to press reports, the district held in documents to the ACLU that McLaughlin's discussions disrupted the learning process. School officials argued that it was appropriate to discipline him. A general condition of the settlement requires that the school district not disclose a student's sexual orientation or punish a student for talking about his or her sexual orientation outside the classroom.

The ACLU hopes other schools will learn from the suit.

State Lifts Medicare Barrier to AIDS Waiver

DPW has announced that it is submitting a request to the federal government to amend the AIDS waiver to allow persons on Medicare to qualify. Currently, the waiver is not available to anyone who has health insurance, including Medicare.

Since many persons living with AIDS receive Social Security Disability Benefits, and thereby qualify for Medicare after a two-year wait, they cannot qualify for waiver services. This proposed change was long sought by AIDS advocates. The state says it does not anticipate opposition by the federal government.

SPARC joins 40th Anniversary of 1963 March on Washington

The nation's civil rights community came together on August 23 to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's historic "I Have A Dream" march on Washington with a march and rally at the Lincoln Memorial. The Statewide Pennsylvania Rights Coalition (SPARC) and the entire LGBT community were invited to join in this historic event.

Martin Luther King III and Coretta Scott King are among the march organizers. The theme this year was "Return, Repair, Renew."

A portion of this commemoration was the recall of West Chester native Bayard Rustin's leadership in the civil rights movement with special programs throughout the weekend.

Rustin, an out African American gay man, was the principal organizer of the 1963 march and one of Dr. Martin Luther King's most trusted co-workers. He also was the founder of several leading civil rights organizations. For more information, visit www.rustin.org.

Health and Support Care (AIDS/HIV)

AIDS Community Alliance (ACA) - 401 Division Street, Suite 100, Harrisburg, PA 17110, Phone: 717.233.7190, Toll Free: 1.800.867.1550, Fax: 717.233.7196

AIDS Testing Site – Carlisle - 117 North Hanover St., Carlisle, PA 17013, Toll Free: 800.867.1550, Hours: Every Friday 9am - 4pm, FREE Confidential/Anonymous.

AIDS Testing Site – Harrisburg - 401 Division St., Suite 100, Harrisburg, PA 17110, Toll Free: 800.867.1550, Hours: Every Tuesday 9am - 8pm, FREE Confidential/Anonymous.

AIDS Testing Site 1 – Lancaster - 545 Pershing Ave., Lancaster, PA 17601, Toll Free: 800.867.1550, Hours: Every Tuesday 1pm - 5pm, FREE Confidential/Anonymous.

AIDS Testing Site 2 – Lancaster - 625 South Duke St., Lancaster, PA 17601, Toll Free: 800.867.1550, Hours: Every Thursday 10am - 7pm, FREE Confidential/Anonymous.

AIDS Planning Coalition of South Central PA - 3461 Market St., Ste 200, Camp Hill, PA 17011, Phone: 717.761.7628, Contact: Sylvia Hepler, Hours: M - F 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Positive Opportunities, Inc. - 401 Division Street, Suite 100, Harrisburg, PA 17110, Toll Free: 1.800.867.1550, ext 230, Contact: Frank Pizzoli, Hours: By appt.

REACCH Program, PinnacleHealth - 2645 N. 3rd Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110, Phone: 717-782-2750, Fax: 717-782-4761, Contact: Victoria Stueckroth, Hours: 8 - 4:30, M-Fri.

South Central District Office, PA Dept. of Health - 30 Kline Village Plaza, Harrisburg, PA 17104, Phone: 717-787-8092, Contact: Ellie Labajettea, Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 - 4:30.

York Health Corporation - 18 S. George St., Suite 701, York, PA 17401, Phone: 717.846.6776, Contact: Meg Wheeler, Hours: M - F 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Bars AND CLUBS

704 Strawberry - 704 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg, PA 17102, Phone: 717.234.4228, Sun. thru Sat. 2 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Altland's Ranch - Orchard Rd. off Rt. 30 12 miles West of York, PA Phone: 717.225.4479 Hours: Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m. - 2 a.m. The fun place to be. Located in a rustic area, large dance floor and good music. Website: www.altlandsranch.com

Brownstone Lounge - 412 Forster St., Harrisburg, PA 17102, Phone: 717.234.7009, Mon. Fri., 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Sat. & Sun., 1 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Chumley's - 108 W. College Ave, State College, PA 16801. Phone: 814.238.4446, Mon.-Sat., 5 p.m. til 2 a.m. Sun., 6 p.m. til 2 a.m.

Club168 -168 S. Main St, Manheim, PA. Phone: 717.665.1960, Mon-Wed.,4 p.m. - 2 a.m., Thu.-Sat., 11 a.m. Bar/Restaurant. Men & Women, 35+ crowd, karaoke and live entertainment in 2 lounges. Intimate seating areas around the dance floor. Billards and High Tech arcade.

Stallions Entertainment Complex – 706 North Third Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102. Phone: 717.232.3060. Hours: Mon - Sat 7 p.m. - 2 a.m. Shimmer, 18 and Over Dance Club is open Friday & Saturday Nights 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Video lounge at Heaven. Website: www.stallionsclub.com.

Sundown Lounge - 429 N. Mulberry St., Lancaster, PA 17603, Phone: 717.392.2737, Mon.-Sat., 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Tally Ho - 210 Orange St, Lancaster, PA 17604, Phone: 717.299.0661

The Neptune Lounge – 268 North St, Harrisburg, PA 17102, Phone: 717.233.3078, Sun.,- Sat., 4 p.m. to 2 a.m.

The Pink Lizard Night Club - 891 Eisenhower Blvd, Harrisburg, PA 17111, Phone: 717.939.1123, Wed.-Sat. 7 p.m.- 2 a.m., Bar/Nightclub. A place for everyone. LGBT & straight. Mostly women. Drag Shows. Email: pinklizard891@aol.com

The Velvet Rope Night Club - 36 W. 11th Ave, York, PA 17404, Phone: 717.812.1474,Tue.-Sun. 6 p.m.- 2 a.m. York Premier Gay and Lesbian Nightclub. Large New York City Style Nightclub. Mixed crowd. Large dance floor. Website: www.clubvelvetrope.com

Reminder:

Organizations listed in the Community Resources section are required to submit updates whenever changes occur. Submit changes to the Switchboard via Email: info@AskGLSH.org or call 717.234.0328.

Social Organizations continued

Pennsmen. Leather/Levi/Social. Meets 2nd Sunday of the each month at 5 p.m., North Street Cafe. Website: www.pennsmen.org. Email: info@pennsmen.org or 717.232.3785.

Pride Festival of Central PA- Planning meetings. Meets second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., Volunteers welcome. Email: info@harrisburgpride.org. Website: www.harrisburgpride.org. Voice: 717.234.0328.

The Rainbow Bowling League - ABC Bowling Lanes - Eisenhower Blvd, Harrisburg. Teams are all men, all women or mixed. Contact: Russ 234-7646 or Mark 763-8444, Hours: Thursday 9:00 p.m.

Renaissance LSV - Transgendered. Social/Information/Support. Meets the 1st Saturday of each month. Email: renaissancelsv@hotmail.org. Website: www.ren.org. Voice: 717.780.1578.

Susquehanna Valley Bears - PO BOX 61478, Harrisburg, PA 17106-1478. Website:: www.svbears.com, Email: svbears@svbears.com

Susquehanna Club - Recreation/Camping. Membership organization. Website: www.susq.org, Email: camp@susq.org. Contact the Switchboard for more information.

Womyn's Chorus of Central PA - Social - Regular rehearsals every Monday night at 7 PM. We need YOUR voice and spirit. Email info@cpwchorus.org. Website: www.cpwchorus.org or call 717.234.4825.

Don't Be a Scrooge:
Support Gay Youth at Local Shows

Common Roads, a Harrisburg-based organization providing support and social services to central Pennsylvania's gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth is holding a series of "fundraisers" at local popular gay establishments.

Please support these events. Imagine how much better your life would have been if you had a "youth group" and a Center for "safe space" when you were growing up.

Common Roads Benefit Shows:
704 Strawberry Café - August 31 at 10 p.m.

Neptune's Lounge - September 7 at 10 p.m.

Brownstone Lounge - September 20 at 10 p.m.

Stallion's Entertainment Complex -September 25 at 10 p.m.

"One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors" - Plato

The Following is a list of addresses of voter registration centers where you can obtain information about voting in your area and also register to vote.

Vote

Centre County
420 Holmes St.
Bellefonte, PA 16823-1488
(814) 355-6703

Dauphin County
PO Box 1295
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1295
(717) 255-2793

Franklin County
157 Lincoln Way East
Chambersburg, PA 17201-2211
(717) 261-3886

Lancaster County
PO Box 83480
Lancaster, PA 18503-3480
(717) 299-8293

Lebanon County
400 S. Eighth St.
Lebanon, PA 17042-6794
(717) 274-2801 Ext. 2248

Perry County
P.O. Box 37
New Bloomfield, PA 17068-0037
(717) 582-8984

York County
100 West Market Street
York, PA 17401-1256
(717) 771-9604

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, Inc.
AskGLSH.org
Hours: M-F 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
717.234.0328
Get Connected to your Community

Spiritual

Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit (MCC) -
2973 Jefferson St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110,
Phone: 717.236.7387,
Email: mccofthespirit@cs.com,
Website: www.mccofthespirit.org.
"A Diverse, Christian Community, Fostering Personal, Spiritual, and Community Growth" MCC of the Spirit reaches out to ALL people and offers many ministry opportunities such as: Gospel Choir, Praise Band, and Just Jam. Sunday services are: 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 7p.m.

St. Michael Lutheran Church -
118 State St.
Harrisburg, PA 17101,
Phone: 717.234.0092, Sunday
Email: stmichael@paonline.com,
Website: www.paonline.com/stmike.

Temple Beth Shalom - 913 Allendale Road,
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055,
Phone: 717.697.2662,
Fax: 717.795.7749
Contact: Rabbi Carl Choper,
Email: tbs.temple@verizon.net,
Website: www.tbshalom.org.
Synagogue with open and affirming LGBT position.

Unitarian Church of Harrisburg -
1280 Clover Lane,
Harrisburg, PA 17113,
Phone: 717.564.4761
Email: uch@paonline.com,
Website: www.paonline.com/uchuua.
Provides a mutually supportive liberal religious environment, which nurtures each individual's free and responsible search for personal meaning and growth. Seeking to be a caring and democratic community, we gather to articulate, question, and affirm our beliefs and to develop the courage to act upon them.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of York -
925 S. George St,
York, PA 17403,
Phone: 717.845.8212,
Mon. - Thurs., 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.,
Sun. 10 a.m. - noon.
Email: office@uucy.org,
Website: www.uucy.org.

Unitarian Universalists of the Cumberland Valley -
2 Forge Rd, PO Box 207,
Boiling Springs, PA 17007,
Phone: 717.249.8944.
The Unitarian Universalists of the Cumberland Valley are proud to bring the voice and the practice of liberal religion to the Cumberland Valley region. All are welcome to join us in worship regardless of age, race, religious background, class, or sexual orientation. We come together to support one another in our continuing commitment to a free and loving search for spiritual meaning and to the expression of that meaning in our community and in our personal lives. Adult services and children's religious education are offered every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Unity Church of Harrisburg,
927 Wertzville Road,
Enola, Pa 17025,
Phone: 717 732-9773.
Fax: 717 732-9074,
Website:
www.unitychurchharrisburg.com,
Sunday services, classes,
Spiritual & social Support
Group for Alternative Lifestyles
Group meets twice month.

Vision of Hope Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) - 1
30 East Main Street,
Mountville, PA 17554.
Phone: 717.285.9070 Worship
- Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Contact: Rev. Debbie Coggin.
Website:www.visionofhopemcc.com.
Email:visionofhopemcc@aol.com.

Helplines and Crisis Intervention

Contact Helpline - 717)657.4400

Dauphin County Crisis – 717.232.7511

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, Inc. – 717.234.0328. Support Hours:
M-F: 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Some weekend support. .
Email: info@AskGLSH.org.

Holy Spirit Crisis – 717.763.2222

Lancaster Shelter for Abused Women -
717.299.1249

SUPPORT GROUPS

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, Inc. - Phone helpline: (717)234.0328, M-F 6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. Some weekend support. Website: www.AskGLSH.org. Email: info@AskGLSH.org. 1300A North 3rd St. Harrisburg, PA 17102.

Lambda AA – Harrisburg - Support group for recovering lesbian and gay alcoholics using 12-step program of Alcoholics Anonymous. Quaker Meeting House. 6th and Herr Sts. Lower level. (717)234-5390. Hours: Mon 8 p.m. and Fri 8:30 p.m.

Parents and Families, Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) of Central Pennsylvania - Support for GLBT families, friends, resources, publications, information from National office & small library. Meets 3rd Monday of each month except August and December. Email: pflagcenpa@yahoo.com, Tressler/DIAKON: Voice: (717)795.0330. 24-hr hotline(717)728.8800.

Parents and Families, Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) of York. Meets monthly at 7 p.m., Lutheran Home. 750 Kelly Drive, York, PA. For more information call (717)843.3793 or (717)846.2560.

The Quest Group – a supportive, loving spiritual community for gays, lesbians and those who love them that promotes an atmosphere of unconditional acceptance and provides an opportunity to know each other through God and to know God through each other. This is a social group also. Meets the second and fourth Fridays of the month. Unity Church of Harrisburg. Enola, PA. (717)975-2028.

Rainbow AA of York (Gay and Lesbian AA). Meets Thursday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Trinity Lutheran, 415 N. West St. York. For more information (717)846.2560 or Email: chuckdk@aol.com

Choose HIV Drugs That Work for You

By Frank Pizzoli

With HIV infect0ion therapy, it's not how fast you win the race but how long you stay on the racetrack.

Careful choice of medications is important when beginning or changing treatment. Good choices achieve HIV therapy's ultimate goal of preserving infection-fighting CD4 cells by lowering Viral Load (VL) for as long as possible.

How HIV Works

HIV multiplies in the bloodstream and then attacks CD4 or "helper" cells that fight off infection.

If HIV infiltrates and ultimately destroys enough CD4 cells, you become prone to "opportunistic infections" (OI). These infections are actually common, every-day, garden-variety parasites, bacteria, and viruses your immune system would normally keep in check. But when you don't have enough "helper" cells to fight them off, these Infectious agents can get the upper hand. Some OIs, like pneumonia, can be life threatening. Others, like chronic rashes, require tedious care. Choosing treatments that best preserve, maybe even boost CD4 cells, helps keep away nasty infections.

CD4 cells are preserved by keeping VL as low as possible for as long as possible. Based on blood tests that measure your CD4 cell count and your VL, you'll know how well your HIV meds are working—or when you should start treatment.

Undetectable is success

The Federal Government Guidelines for treating HIV say that successful control of VL is the one of the strongest predictors of long-term outcome. Ultimately, you want your VL to diminish to "undetectable". That means a blood test indicates the level of virus in your bloodstream measures below "50". Do not despair if your VL drops, for example, from 100,000, but stays above "50".

But do realize that getting and keeping your VL as low as possible is paramount. And for most patients initially starting therapy, it's often possible to keep HIV below 50.

Drug Combination Shorthand

Here's shorthand for the different HIV med classes from which "combinations" are selected: There are two types of nukes, non-nukes, protease inhibitors, and fusion inhibitors. Combinations should include at least 3 different drugs. For initial therapy, the Federal Government recommends certain "preferred" meds for a combination of either two nukes plus a protease inhibitor or two nukes plus a non-nuke.

In chart form, you'd see 23 choices of medicine made from 19 different compounds. The additional choices are actually combinations of two or three of the 19 compounds. Although there are 23 meds, the number of effective combinations that you can choose is limited. Therefore, you'll want to choose meds that will not only reach your goal of undetectable as fast as possible, but that will keep HIV as low as possible for as long as possible. That's also exactly what the new Federal Guidelines stress: "Treatment goals should be maximal and durable suppression of viral load".

Adherence and Resistance

All medicines work to some degree, but only if you take them. Remember being warned to finish all your antibiotics because stopping prematurely allows the rash to return? Same result with HIV meds, only it's called "resistance".

Resistance to your HIV meds means your drugs can no longer fight off the virus. This can happen if the HIV virus evolves in such a way that it enables new copies of itself to survive in the presence of the medicines you're taking. Missing doses can result in the amount of medicine in your blood dropping below levels needed to control the virus. Uncontrolled, the virus will then be free to invade infection-fighting CD4 cells. As more and more CD4 cells are destroyed, you are much more likely to develop opportunistic infections. This "chain reaction" concerns the Federal Government, which notes that "missing one [once-daily] dose may result in inadequate drug exposure over a defined period of time leading to a higher probability of the development of drug resistance."

To avoid resistance, research indicates HIV meds must be taken 95 percent of the time. Even if taken 95 percent of the time, some people still develop resistance. And even with less than perfect adherence, resistance doesn't always develop. The point is that some HIV drugs are "more forgiving" and others "less forgiving" if you miss doses. Try to pick drugs with a good track record at keeping HIV undetectable and avoiding resistance.

Convenience isn't efficacy

Whether initially beginning HIV therapy or switching regi-

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V&A
WIENKEN & ASSOCIATES
Financial Services
Deborah E. Pajak, CLTC
Financial Services Professional
214 Senate Avenue, Suite 303
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania 17011
717-763-7365 ext. 398
fax 717-763-7684
depajak@finsvcs.com

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Choose HIV Drugs That Work for You continued

mens, it's important to choose combinations of meds that keep your VL undetectable for as long as possible. And that's regardless of the number of pills required on a daily basis. Of all the factors you'll consider, remember that there's no relationship between the "convenience" of taking fewer pills and their "effectiveness". The fact of the matter is that some meds are simply better at keeping VL undetectable for the long haul. And of these medicines, there are options. Don't trade off "today convenience" for "tomorrow's effectiveness".

Frank Pizzoli writes for Instinct, POZ, Body Positive, New York Blade News and founded nonprofit Positive Opportunities (PosOps@aol.com), offering educational seminars and benefits counseling to HIV-infected people supported by Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and Greater Harrisburg Foundation.

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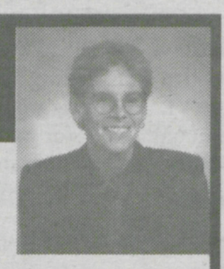

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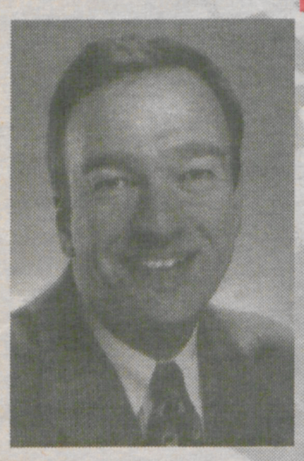

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, September 10th
Christopher Peterson, Celebrity Female Impersonator.
$15 Reserved Seating | $10 General Admission.

Saturday, September 20th
The Alexxus Kane Show
PLUS...Chuck's Birthday Party featuring Sabrina White, Miss Gay America 2002 | Show starts at 10pm.

Thursday, October 2nd
Randy Roberts, Celebrity Female Impersonator.
$15 Reserved Seating | $10 General Admission.

Saturday, October 4th
The Velvet Rope Variety Show
Featuring Queen Velvet Rope, Mr.. Velvet Rope and Miss Velvet Rope.
Also featuring a MEGA DANCE PARTY from 11:30pm until close.

Friday, October 31st
The Velvet Rope "Masquerade" Party
Costume contest at 12midnight for Most Original, Most Beautiful, and Most Scariest.

Friday, November 7th
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